This is a reproduction of a library book that was digitized by Google as part of an ongoing effort to preserve the information in books and make it universally accessible.

Google™ books

https://books.google.com

THE UNIVERSITY
OF TEXAS
MAR 3 1958
THE LIBRARY

Montserrat

1955 and 1956

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
PRICE 3s. 6d. NET

Digitized by Google

Crown copyright reserved

Digitized by Google

MONTSERRAT

Report for the years 1955 & 1956

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1958

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

L NO.
:972.97
1769r
.955-64

TO BIND. PREP
DATE 4/27/71
COMPLETE [ ]
INCOMPLETE [x]
add in BUCKRAM [ ]
LACED-ON [x]
REGULAR [x]
RUSH [ ]

Library
University of Texas
Austin, Texas

THOR AND TITLE
reat Britian. Colonial Office.
Report on Montserrat.

lease do not trim
JATCH for folding plates
NED rn
ANCH LA
. I. [ ] N.P. [ ] O.P. [ ]
CK. NOS. ARE: O.P. NOT ORDERED
SEE CHANGED TITLE SLIP [ ]
STUB FOR LACKING PARTS [ ]
ID IN THIN VOLUME BECAUSE OF:
SE HEIGHT CEASED PUB.
ALUE WEIGHT CHANGED SIZE
APER MARGINS
RIAL BINDING INSTRUCTIONS

NTS
I

AA-17 II

page 3

. I
. 6
Labour Organisation . 6
on 9
. 10
. 11
. 12
. 16
. 21
. 22
Works . . . 27
. 28
and Information Services 29
. 30

Chapter 1 Geography and Climate 31
2 History 31
3 Administration 31
4 Weights and Measures 32
5 Reading List 32

APPENDICES: I Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils 33
II Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes 33

A map will be found facing the last page

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Library
University of Texas
Austin, Texas

CONTENTS

PART I

Chapter 1 General Review . . . . . *page* 3

PART II

Chapter 1 Population 6
2 Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation . 6
3 Public Finance and Taxation 9
4 Currency and Banking 10
5 Commerce 11
6 Production 12
7 Social Services 16
8 Legislation 21
9 Justice, Police and Prisons 22
10 Public Utilities and Public Works 27
11 Communications 28
12 Press, Broadcasting, Films and Information Services 29
13 Local Forces 30

PART III

Chapter 1 Geography and Climate 31
2 History 31
3 Administration 31
4 Weights and Measures 32
5 Reading List 32

APPENDICES: I Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils 33
II Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes 33

A map will be found facing the last page

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

PART I

General Review

Constitutional

The Leeward Islands Federation, which was created in 1871, came to an end on the 1st July, 1956, when Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands became separate Colonies under the provisions of the United Kingdom Leeward Islands Act, 1956.

Civil Service Commission

In the wake of defederation effected on the 1st July, 1956, a Public Service Commission was created under the Public Service Commission Ordinance No. 1 of 1956. The functions of the Commission are to advise the Governor or the Administrator on any matter which he may refer to the Commission relating to the appointment, promotion and transfer of public officers, or other matters affecting the public service of Montserrat.

Civil Service salaries were increased by 20 per cent with effect from 1st January, 1956.

Federation Conference in London

Montserrat was represented by a delegate (with an official adviser) at the London Federation Conference in February, 1956, when firm plans were laid for the formation of the British Caribbean Federation which will come into being during 1958.

Economic Events

The economy of the island remains predominantly based upon cotton, although determined efforts have been made during 1955 and 1956 to establish vegetable and fruit production and the livestock industry as important secondary industries. During 1955 the cotton crop was disastrously affected by drought conditions followed by the heavy rains of hurricane " Connie ", and the total crop yielded only 258,884 lb. of clean lint, as against 376,937 lb. in 1954, which was itself a very poor year. There was no cotton production in 1956 owing to the fact that the planting date was changed from February to September.

The Montserrat Produce Agency was established on a temporary basis in November, 1955, and was responsible for the export of produce during the 1955–56 season. Late in 1956 the Export Marketing Ordinance was passed by Legislature, under which was constituted and established " The Export Marketing Agency " which will control the purchase and marketing of all produce. The total value of vegetables exported in 1956 was $84,294; in 1955 it was $39,972. The export of tomatoes showed an increase in value from $20,810 in 1955 to $50,571 in 1956. The livestock industry has shown encouraging signs, and in 1956 for the first time in many years a total head of 120 cattle was

Digitized by Google

exported at a very remunerative price. A cattle census taken at the end of the year showed that in spite of this export there has been a fairly substantial increase in the cattle population over the past 18 months.

Schemes for pasture development, soil conservation, growing of fodder grass and for giving agricultural credit to peasant growers of cotton have been initiated, but have not been taken up and developed as they should.

Electricity for Plymouth

On August 25th, 1955, the first public electricity supply became available in Montserrat. The plant consists of three 40 kW McLaren Brush diesel alternators generating at 400/230 volts 60 cycles, fitted with automatic voltage control, power factor load sharing, and overload and earth leakage protection. By the end of 1955 there were just under 100 consumers, and these increased to 220 by December, 1956. The service rapidly developed from a 12-hour to a 16-hour supply by mid-1956 and finally to a 24-hour supply by December, 1956.

Blackburne Airfield

The Governor, Sir Kenneth Blackburne, opened on the 10th April, 1956, the new airfield known as " Blackburne Airfield " which has been established on the east coast of the island on Trants Estate. The airfield has a total length of 3,000 feet with clear approach and take-off over the sea. The surface is of compact earth with stone foundations for 500 feet in the touch-down area. The Leeward Islands Air Transport Company now operates a scheduled air service between Montserrat, Antigua and St. Kitts, to connect up with the international airlines which call at the two last named islands.

Plymouth Water Supply

A notable improvement was made to the water supply of Plymouth and its environs when on the 1st August, 1956, the first pipe-line bringing water from the Killiekrankie springs was connected to the Plymouth mains. There is now, for the first time, an ample water supply for Plymouth.

Development and Welfare Schemes

These have covered a wide range of activities designed to improve social conditions as well as to broaden the basis of the island's economy. Montserrat received an allocation of £124,000 under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1945 as a contribution towards a ten-year development plan. This plan was revised at the end of 1951 and grants from the Imperial Treasury brought the total allocation to £188,000. For the period 1955–60 a further allocation of £180,000 has been made. The 1955–60 Development Plan includes schemes for economic development, e.g. soil conservation, livestock projects, land clearing, vegetable production and marketing, banana cultivation, provision for services of a hotel, fisheries project; public works, e.g. road construction, flood prevention measures, erection of navigational

Digitized by Google

lights for Plymouth; social services, e.g. health clinics, hospital improvement, housing and water supplies. Schemes completed or in progress at the end of 1956 are shown at Appendix II.

Important Visits

The Governor, Sir Kenneth Blackburne, visited the Colony on several occasions in 1955 and 1956.

Mr. B. Havard Duclos, Agricultural Economist assigned to the Caribbean Commission by F.A.O., paid a seven-day visit to the Colony in June, 1955, and investigated the island's agricultural potentialities. He submitted a report in which he suggested that the island's agricultural economy could be greatly improved by clearing the arable land of rocks, finding regular markets for locally grown vegetables, developing the livestock industry and banana growing.

Mr. F. A. Brown, formerly Deputy Manager of the Sudan Gezira Scheme, who toured the British Caribbean region under a Development and Welfare scheme to advise on the introduction of pilot schemes of group farming, visited the Colony in December, 1955, and subsequently submitted a report on agricultural possibilities.

Mr. George R. Jordan and Mr. Pedro Rivera Cintron, International Co-operation Administration technicians attached to the Caribbean Commission, made several visits to the Colony and advised on the type and construction of houses under the aided self-help programme.

Major H. C. Biggs, Marketing Organiser in the Caribbean, attached to the Development and Welfare Organisation, visited the Colony three times and did much to stimulate the drive for vegetable production and to assist in the marketing of produce in the other Caribbean colonies.

Colonel A. Muller, Inspector General of Colonial Police, visited the Colony on a tour of the Caribbean area, in March, 1956, in company with Lt. Colonel E. M. V. James, the Commissioner of Police.

The British Caribbean Federal Capital Commission comprising Sir Frank Mudie, Professor H. Myles Wright, and Mr. A. E. Cook, called at Montserrat on the 10th August, 1956. They held a public meeting the same day and heard views regarding the siting of the Federal capital.

The Honourable P. D. MacDonald, Chief Secretary of the Leeward Islands, paid an official visit to the Colony in October, 1956.

Mr. W. I. J. Wallace, Head of West Indian Department " A " at the Colonial Office, visited the Colony from the 7th to 9th December, 1956, He held discussions with the Administrator, met members of the Legislative Council at an informal meeting and visited agricultural and public works projects recently completed or in progress.

Administration

His Honour Charlesworth Ross, who was Commissioner of Montserrat from 1949, retired from the public service in March, 1956. The Honourable O. E. Henry, Treasurer and Postmaster, administered the Government until November, 1956, when His Honour A. F. Dawkins, on secondment from the Sierra Leone Service, was appointed as the first substantive Administrator of the new Colony of Montserrat.

Digitized by Google

PART II

Chapter 1 : Population

THE estimated population of the island was 14,145 at the end of 1954 and 14,436 at the end of 1955.

Statistics of births, deaths, arrivals and departures are given below.

	1953	*1954*	*1955*	*1956*
Mid-year population estimate .	13,272	13,700	14,290*	14,378*
Total live births	424	429	428	396
Birth rate per 1,000 . . .	31·9	31·3	29·9	28·0
Deaths	203	180	173	166
Death rate per 1,000 . . .	15·3	13·1	12·1	11·5

* Mean of end-year Estimates.

Arrivals and Departures

Year	*Arrivals*			*Departures*		
	Males	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
1953	1,762	1,275	3,037	1,787	1,373	3,160
1954	1,735	1,355	3,090	1,686	1,193	2,879
1955	2,147	1,499	3,646	1,935	1,675	3,610
1956	1,657	1,190	2,847	1,697	1,478	3,175

Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

EMPLOYMENT

THE main occupations continue to be agriculture and fishing, construction, repair and maintenance, professional and public services, trade and finance. Agricultural labour predominates, with cotton as the staple industry. In 1955, however, the cotton crop was hard hit by drought and heavy rains, and production dropped markedly, while in 1956 owing to the change in planting season, there was no cotton crop at all. Employment opportunities in the cotton industry during the period were therefore considerably reduced. Vegetable production for export engaged a goodly number of persons.

Digitized by Google

Emigration to Britain continued and it is estimated that some 1,850 persons left the Colony in 1955 and 1956 to seek work there. Six men were recruited in 1955 for farm work in the United States of America and four pre-designated workers were also called for in 1956. Forty men were recruited in 1955 and 52 in 1956 to assist in reaping the sugar-cane crop in St. Croix.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The task and piece-work system, as well as the daily-wage system, remain the basis of cultivation operations. The daily-wage system obtains also for cotton ginning operations, public workers (including road maintenance) and the trades. Domestic servants and the majority of commercial clerks are paid on a weekly basis. The 8-hour day is normal for weekly-paid workers. Labourers receive day-and-a-half wage rates if they work on public holidays. The principal commercial stores grant their employees two weeks paid holiday a year.

The following are examples of basic daily rates for workers prevailing at the close of 1956:

	$ c
Estate workers—men	1·08
women	0·72
Government labourers—men	1·17
women	0·83

Farming on estates was paid at the rate of $3·00 per acre, and picking of cotton at the rate of 2½ cents per lb. Some male workers on Government buildings received as much as $1·50 per day. Wage rates of Government workers reflect an increase of 15 per cent approved with effect from the 1st July, 1956.

COST OF LIVING

Cost of living indices are not available. A comparative schedule showing end-year retail prices of principal items of food are given below:

Articles	*1952*	*1953*	*1954*	*1955*	*1956*
	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c
Table butter (per lb. tin)	1·42	1·36	1·36	1·36	1·36
Cooking butter (per lb.)	·63	·63	·63	·56	·56
Cheese (per lb.)	·88	1·00	1·00	1·00	1·00
Eggs (each)	·06	·07–·08	·07–·08	·07–·08	·08
Fish (per lb.) Cod	·43–·48	·36–·48	·44	·44	·46
Bloaters	·36	·30	·30	·34	·36
Herrings	·26	·20	·20	·26	·28
Mackerel	·36	·38	·42	·42	·42
Cornmeal (per lb.)	·16	·14	·14	·14	·14
Flour (per lb.)	·12	·12	·12	·11	·12
Lard (per lb.)	·60	·60	·60	·54	·54
Fresh Meats (per lb.):					
Beef (all cuts)	·24	·24	·24	·24	·30, ·36 & ·42
Goat meat	·22	·22	·22	·22	·30
Mutton	·24	·24	·24	·24	·30
Pork	·26	·26	·26	·26	·30
Soup meat	·20	·20	·20	·20	·30

Digitized by Google

Articles	*1952*	*1953*	*1954*	*1955*	*1956*
	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c
Meats, smoked or cured (per lb.):					
Bacon	1·36	1·20	1·20	1·24	1·44
Ham	1·42 to 1·52	1·68	1·36 to 1·50	1·20	2·00
Sausages	1·44 to 1·68	1·50	1·00	·80	1·20
Meats (pickled and salted) (per lb.):					
Pork Snouts	·45	·38	·51	·50	·48
Pork Skins	·41	·50	·53	·48	·48
Fat Back	·60	·76	—	·60	·60
Milk condensed (per 14·02 oz. tin):					
Nestles	·47	·45	·42	·40	·42
Evaporated	·38	·36	·36	·34	·36
Milk (fresh, 26 fluid ozs.)	·07	·07	·07	·07	·08
Edible Oil (Cotton seed, per bottle)	·48	·48–·60	·48–·60	·60	·60–·72
Potatoes (imported)	·12	·12	·12	·12	·12
Rice, Demerara (per lb.):					
Super Quality	·15	·15	·15	·15	·15
Second Quality	·14	·14	·14	·14	·14
Sugar (per lb.):					
Barbados	·13	·14	·14	·14	·14
Antigua (washed)	·13	·14	·14	·14	·14
Leeward Islands Crystals	·12	·12	·10	·10	·10
Onions (per lb.)	·16	·16	·16	·16	·16
Charcoal (per bag)	1·20	1·44	1·44	1·68	1·92

LABOUR RELATIONS

The Labour Commissioner of Antigua paid a visit to the Colony from the 12th to 19th May, 1956. During his visit he was able to smooth out difficulties which had risen between road workers on a Government project and the supervisor, which had caused a stoppage of work. He also held talks on general labour matters with officials of the Trades and Labour Union and with leading employers of labour. On the whole, the period under review was free from any serious industrial strife. The Trades and Labour Union reported a membership of 650 at the end of 1956.

No labour legislation was passed during the period under review and the operative ordinance is still the Labour Ordinance, 1950, as amended by the Labour (Amendment) Ordinance, 1954. Estate labourers are provided with free medical treatment under the provisions of the Labourers' Medical Attendance Ordinance, 1871. A few estate owners provide houses for their aged workers who normally also receive small weekly allowances. There are no schemes for vocational training or apprenticeship in the trades.

Digitized by Google

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

COMPARATIVE figures of revenue and expenditure in respect of the 1953–54 and 1955–56 are given below:

Revenue	*1953*	*1954*	*1955*	*1956*
	$	$	$	$(est.)
Customs	139,916	157,110	154,463	163,290
Internal Revenue, Excise and Licences	56,496	66,323	72,877	60,382
Fees of Court or Office, etc.	129,345	106,136	84,768	109,335
Post Office, Telephones, etc.	54,390	36,191	205,245	65,022
Other	19,208	28,861	17,269	26,513
Total Local Revenue	399,355	394,621	534,622	424,542
Other (including U.K. grant-in-aid and C.D.&W. grants)	445,015	473,031	560,075	763,360
GRAND TOTAL	844,370	867,652	1,095,697	1,187,902

Expenditure	*1953*	*1954*	*1955*	*1956*
	$	$	$	$(est.)
Public Debt	1,456	1,425	2,507	4,597
Pensions	22,242	30,031	23,976	40,840
Federal Services	67,771	49,635	65,196	36,652
Administration	32,516	28,094	32,227	36,412
Agriculture	112,545	109,588	93,578	155,473
Water	5,678	5,917	6,563	7,101
Medical and Health	39,788	43,612	45,660	49,923
Hospital and Allied Services	81,603	72,850	76,439	98,268
Education	121,714	128,425	120,276	149,629
Post Office, Telephones, etc.	31,662	30,908	35,217	38,533
Public Works	61,589	86,497	119,229	67,229
Other	134,262	139,275	155,458	225,011
Total Local Expenditure	712,826	726,257	776,326	909,668
Other	139,943	128,779	138,237	284,553
GRAND TOTAL	852,769	855,036	914,563	1,194,221

PUBLIC DEBT

The public debt at the end of 1955 stood at $76,529·42.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Assets exceeded liabilities by $175,779·30 at the close of 1955.

Digitized by Google

TAXATION YIELDS

	1953	*1954*	*1955*	*1956*
	$	$	$	$(est.)
Import Duties	139,549	156,918	154,201	162,731
Export Duties	367	192	262	559
Income Tax	19,354	23,533	28,465	16,556
Excise	17,487	17,533	17,406	16,649
Post Office and Telephones	47,208	29,574	196,188	47,789

Import duties were derived mainly from foodstuffs, clothing, tobacco and cigarettes, spirits, sugar and motor vehicles, while export duties were derived mainly from cotton and its by-products, and tomatoes. British Commonwealth goods are imported into the island at preferential rates and exports from the island enjoy reciprocal treatment in Commonwealth markets.

Excise duty is collected on rum at the rate of $1·20 per imperial gallon. Small taxation yields accrue from the following:

(*a*) stamp duties from deeds, negotiable instruments, death or estate duties, and passports;

(*b*) land tax which is chargeable at the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* per acre on cultivable land and 6*d.* per acre on uncultivable land;

(*c*) motor vehicles in running order pay an annual licence tax of $9·60 each for private use and $14·00 each for commercial use. A tax of $0·96 per annum is paid on pedal bicycles;

(*d*) trade licences ranging from $9·60 to $72·00 and liquor licences from $4·80 to $24·00 per annum.

Income tax is imposed on the chargeable income of all individuals, i.e. gross income minus earned income relief, citizenship abatement, allowances for wife, children, dependent relatives, and life insurance, and is charged on a sliding scale of rates enumerated in the Income Tax Ordinance. The rate of tax upon the chargeable income of a Company is 5*s.* 6*d.* in the £.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE currency in use is the unified currency of the British Caribbean Territories (Eastern Group) issued by the British Caribbean Currency Board, the notes in circulation being $1, $2, $5, $10, $20 and $100. The dollar is fixed at 4*s.* 2*d.*, that is, $4·80 (B.W.I.) to the £ sterling. The dollar system of accounting is used by the Government, commercial houses and the Royal Bank of Canada, the only bank in the island. English silver and copper coins (3*d.*, 6*d.*, 1*s.*, 2*s.* and 2*s.* 6*d.* pieces) are still legal tender, but their use is gradually diminishing.

The Government Savings Bank had 2,025 depositors with $371,731·12 to their credit at the 31st December, 1955, while at the 31st December, 1956, the estimated figures were 2,188 depositors with $420,646·84.

Current bank rates in London, New York and Canada, as well as the prevailing inter-colonial rates of exchange, apply to Montserrat.

Digitized by Google

Chapter 5: Commerce

THE total value of imports and exports for each of the last five years is shown below:

Year	*Imports* $	*Exports* $
1952	1,219,771	865,863
1953	1,028,443	347,122
1954	1,108,309	531,700
1955	1,193,240	401,820
1956	1,169,890	169,670

The value of re-exports for the last five years was as follows:

	$
1952	10,162
1953	16,910
1954	11,155
1955	21,739
1956	18,605

The quantity and value of the main imports and exports during the period under review is shown below:

Imports	*1955* Quantity	*1955* Value	*1956* Quantity	*1956* Value
		$		$
Flour (100 lb. bags)	15,288	124,320	13,616	104,911
Fish dried and salted (lb.)	146,597	35,918	158,238	44,502
Rice (180 lb. bags)	1,181	23,893	1,728	32,832
Sugar, unrefined (lb.)	1,088,480	82,981	1,056,873	80,007
Lumber, pitch pine (ft.)	20,181	9,787	35,471	7,919
Boots, Shoes and Slippers (prs.)	22,139	56,365	21,773	61,434
Cotton piece goods (sq.yds.)	109,973	53,763	83,476	42,610
Cheese (lb.)	19,484	12,501	15,542	8,745
Rum (gals.)	3,206	13,068	2,905	11,620
Motor Cars (no.)	17	27,862	21	37,552
Cement (lb.)	400,155	7,772	792,578	16,233
Cotton manufactures	—	13,141	—	8,569
Rayon piece goods (sq.yds.)	36,605	19,582	45,027	10,539
Electrical equipment	—	92,978	—	32,847
Laundry Soap (lb.)	66,744	12,391	45,376	8,971
Metal Manufactures	—	20,406	—	35,361
Medicine and Drugs	—	21,067	—	19,893
Exports				
Carrots (lb.)	120,730	15,219	142,064	22,170
Tomatoes (lb.)	164,070	20,810	203,224	50,577
Other vegetables	48,338	3,943	103,800	11,353
Raw Lime Juice (gals.)	7,802	8,268	11,659	12,588
Ecuelled Lime Oil (lb.)	85	722	85	712
Cotton Lint, clean (lb.)	258,884	290,094	—	—
Cotton Lint, stained (lb.)	26,097	10,099	18,812	9,355
Cotton Seed Meal & Cake (lb.)	303,846	7,878	591,454	10,129

Goods were imported from the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Japan, Australia, Holland, Hong Kong and the British West Indies. Exports went mainly to the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, the British West Indies, Bermuda and Australia.

Digitized by Google

Chapter 6 : Production

THE most recent estimate of the acreage of various types of land is given by B. Havard Duclos in his *Report on the Presidency of Montserrat* written as a result of his visit in June, 1955. This gives the distribution as follows:

	Acres
"Cultivated land . . .	5,502
Arable land	3,976
Pasture land . . .	2,189
Forest	5,005
Other (villages, roads etc.) .	503
TOTAL	17,175

The land is divided into 1,486 farms which are subdivided into 3,070 plots. 6,641 acres are managed by the owners ; 2,231 acres are rented and 8,303 acres are exploited by managers."

Land is held by freehold under the Title by Registration Act and by lease in the case of the Otway Peasant Settlement and in a few other instances. The share-cropping system survives on the estates, in connection with cotton cultivation.

There is legislation controlling the clearing of forest but none regarding soil conservation. Towards the end of 1955 a new soil conservation scheme was put into operation whereby funds were provided for the payment of a 50 per cent subsidy to peasants introducing soil conservation measures on their holdings. At the end of 1956, 80 acres of contoured strips (chiefly of stones) had been laid down under the scheme by peasants.

The water supply of Plymouth has been considerably augmented by supplies from the Killiekrankie Springs begun in 1956. Pipe-borne water from mountain springs supply the needs of the villages, but in the Northern District the supply is inadequate and investigation of additional sources is being made.

Existing laws relating to soil and water conservation are: the Bush Fires Ordinance, No. 13 of 1925; the Forestry Reserve Resolution, No. 11 of 1932; the Forestry Ordinance, No. 2 of 1946. The following laws relate to agricultural small holdings: the Agricultural Small Holdings Act, No. 12 of 1938 and the Land Settlement Act, No. 15 of 1939.

The use of mechanical tillage on estates and peasant holdings has improved and there is increasing demand for tractor cultivation.

Cotton

Corrected acreages of cotton planted under various systems of land tenure for the last four years are given below:

	1953	*1954*	*1955*	*1956–57*
Estate cultivation . . .	702	932	913	666
Peasants (freehold or rent land) .	1,184	1,624	1,413	600
Share-cropping	84	391	182	20
TOTAL ACREAGE	1,970	2,947	2,508	1,286

Digitized by Google

Library
University of Texas
Austin, Texas

Production yields of cotton over the last four years were as follows:

	1953	*1954*	*1955*	*1956**
Total clean lint produced (lb.) .	325,756	376,937	258,884	nil
Total lint production per acre (lb.)	172	139	113	nil
Stained lint % of total crop . .	4·1	7·9	8·5	nil

* No production in 1956 owing to the change in planting date.

The 1955 cotton crop was sold in the United Kingdom at prices ranging from $1·06 to $1·12 per lb. of lint.

Tomatoes

Weather conditions were generally favourable for the production of tomatoes, but irregular and uncertain shipping facilities and indifferent cold storage conditions affected the marketing of the fruit in the other Caribbean islands. Exports and their value in the last four years were as follows:

Year	*Lb. Exported*	*Value* $
1953	183,888	20,000
1954	66,725	8,648
1955	164,070	20,810
1956	203,224	50,771

Food Crops

Fair quantities of a wide range of vegetables and other food crops have been produced during the change-over period of the cotton planting season. They included carrots, shallots, pumpkins, black eye peas, peanuts, cabbage and maize. The total export of such crops in 1954 amounted to 127,097 lb. valued at $14,900 and in 1955–56 to 372,976 lb. valued at $48,032.

Limes

A serious effort has been made by the Montserrat Company Limited to rehabilitate their depleted lime orchards. Extensive pruning was done and all the trees were regularly sprayed. A marked improvement in the condition of the trees has been noted and increased yields are anticipated.

Marketing

Vegetable marketing was re-organised in time for the 1955–56 vegetable season, and the Montserrat Produce Export Agency was made responsible for the export of produce. Agents were appointed in the various purchasing countries and marketing was better regulated than hitherto. The Produce Export Agency was superseded in 1956 by the Export Marketing Agency, a statutory body responsible for controlling and marketing the island's vegetables and other food produce.

Weather

Rainfall in 1955 showed an increase in most areas of the island, but the distribution during the months of cotton cultivation was unfavourable. The Grove Agricultural Station recorded an annual rainfall of

Digitized by Google

60·54 inches, this being about the average for the previous 53 years. In 1956, weather conditions improved, the total recorded at the Botanic Station being 77·55 inches, and the distribution was more favourable than in the previous year. These favourable conditions resulted in a long vegetable season extending from November, 1955, to August, 1956.

Agricultural Administration

The Cotton Officer became a member of the staff of the Cotton Station in Antigua and was seconded to Montserrat. The Agricultural Department was administered by the Agricultural Superintendent and subordinate personnel comprised an Agricultural Assistant, the Cotton Officer (on secondment), the Manager of Otway Settlement, the Livestock Officer, two Agricultural Instructors, two Junior Agricultural Instructors, one Agricultural Probationer and a Foreman of the Grove Agricultural Station.

Land Settlement

At the end of 1956 there were about 300 tenants on the Otway Land Settlement renting about 400 acres of cotton land and 150 acres of provision holdings. These tenants grew cotton, tomatoes and food crops and many of them kept a head or two of cattle, in addition to small stock, and continued the practice of stall feeding. The Settlement Advisory Board held several meetings during the period and gave valuable advice on the running of the Settlement.

Extension Work

The Agricultural Instructors and other officers of the Department continued to give advice and to conduct demonstration work for the benefit of peasants. They also did a good deal of work throughout the island in connection with the Government soil conservation and fodder grass subsidy scheme.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

There was no shortage of locally produced meat and milk, but poultry and eggs were inadequate for local consumption. It was possible for the first time in many years to export 120 head of cattle in the initial attempt to develop a continuing export trade. A census of cattle taken late in 1956 showed that the cattle population had increased by 521 head since the last census in 1954. The number of animals recorded as slaughtered was as follows:

Cattle	371
Goats	715
Sheep	722
Pigs	305

Hides and skins exported were of the order of 730 dozen valued at $4,225 in 1955.

Digitized by Google

FORESTRY

The Forest Officer was assisted by eight part-time Rangers and during the period under review they visited all forest areas regularly. On the coming into operation of the new Forest Ordinance, recently passed by the local legislature, two full-time Rangers will be appointed who will each patrol and be responsible to the Forest Officer for one-half of the island's forest area. Some 30,000 feet of commercial timber, as well as other timber, producing 400 bundles of shingles were cut in 1955, the value of which was estimated at $9,000. The same quantities were cut in 1956. In both 1955 and 1956 about 5,500 feet of timber, mainly red cedar, was exported, the value being about $1,298. In 1955 there were 18 prosecutions for offences under the Forestry Ordinance, and in 1956, two.

FISHERIES

During 1955 and 1956 serious consideration was given to the improvement of the fishing industry of the island. A Fisheries Committee was appointed, and on their recommendation an application has been made for the provision of funds to finance a fisheries scheme. A grant from Colonial Development and Welfare funds has been approved.

MINING

There are no known mineral deposits on the island which may be exploited.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

The Montserrat Company Limited continued to operate their small factory for the manufacture of edible oil, cotton seed meal and cake used for stock feed and as fertilizer, and a small quantity of soap. It also manufactured a small amount of shingles from local wood.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

There are no co-operative societies in the Colony.

Digitized by Google

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

A new Education Ordinance was enacted during 1956 following the repeal of the Elementary Education Act. The Ordinance relates to all types of education in the Colony and embodies provisions for setting up an Education Committee to advise the Government on all aspects of education.

The following table shows the notable increase in attendances at the primary schools, in the past five years:

Year	*Roll*	*Average Attendance*	*% Attendance*
1952	3,172	2,740	86
1953	3,296	2,865	87
1954	3,365	3,025	90
1955	3,278	2,915	89
1956	3,313	2,990	90

In 1956 there were 12 Government-aided (Roman Catholic) and 1 unaided (Seventh Day Adventist) primary schools, and 1 Government secondary senior school.

Inter-school visits among the senior pupils of the schools were introduced and numbers of school clubs were inaugurated. These visits and clubs are proving invaluable in inculcating a spirit of goodwill, co-operation and friendliness among the children.

The annual inspections of the primary schools and the examination of the children of Standard VII were conducted as usual and the results showed that satisfactory teaching methods have been followed and attainment levels maintained. An inter-school exhibition of handicrafts was held in December, 1956, and the results indicated a larger and more varied number of exhibits than in previous years and an improving standard of skill and technique.

The dental service to the primary schools was maintained throughout the period. The School Dentist made regular monthly visits for inspection, lecture, extraction and treatment of teeth, and has reported that there has been improvement in the dental health of the children. UNICEF milk powder has been most valuable in providing, along with yeast biscuits bought with local funds, a mid-morning snack to needy children. During 1956 an average of 2,395 children were served each day.

The Secondary/Senior School

A new building containing a general laboratory, a staffroom and two washrooms for male and female teachers was added to the Secondary/Senior School in January, 1956. This building was constructed with the aid of a Development and Welfare grant.

A Cadet Corps consisting of one platoon was formed and attached to the school in January, 1956, under the command of a 2nd Lieutenant who is a member of the staff. The cost of the corps is met from local funds.

Digitized by Google

Cotton picking at the Grove Botanic Station.

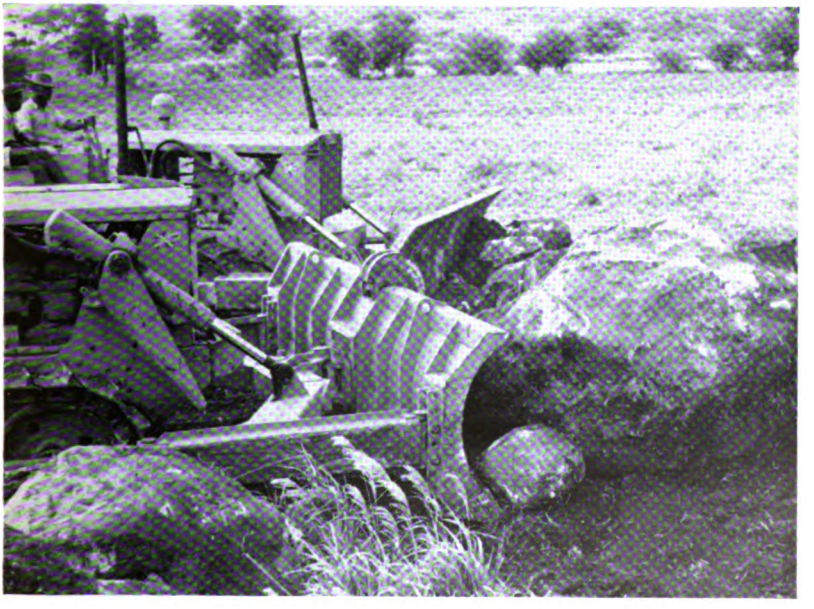
Digitized by Google

Government House.

Packing tomatoes at the Government Marketing Depôt.

Digitized by Google

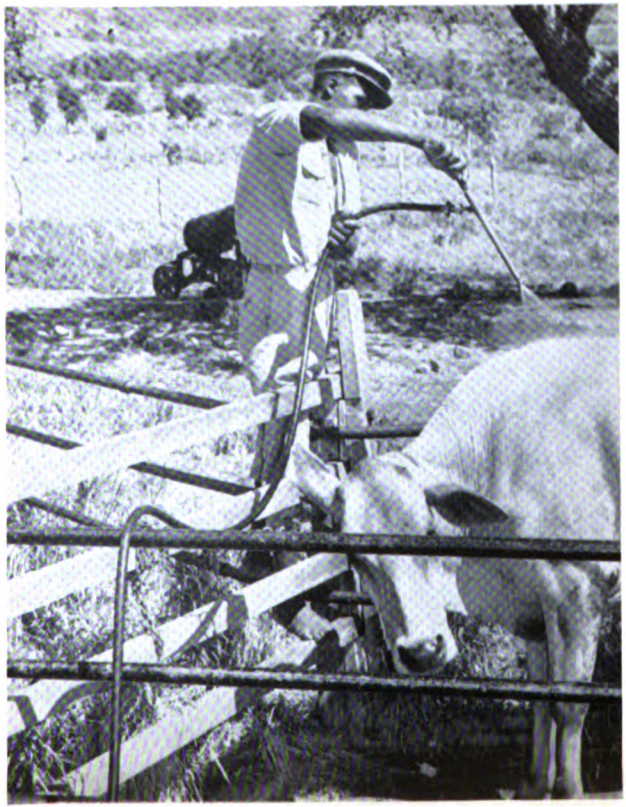
The aided Self-Help Housing Scheme at Bethel Village.



Heavy equipment for clearing land.

Digitized by Google

A view of the Grove Botanic Station.



Parasite control. Spraying cattle against ticks at the Government Livestock Centre, Parsons.

Digitized by Google

The enrolment at the school for the period under review was:

	1955	*1956*
Grammar School Section . .	113	102
Senior School Section . .	69	65
	182	167

Attendance is practically 100 per cent.

Scholarships held at the grammar school section of the school at the end of 1956 were distributed as follows:

Government	18
Masonic Lodge	2
Montserrat Company Ltd.	1
Old Students' Association	1
Montserrat Progressive Society (New York) . .	1
TOTAL	23

The work of the school, which was established only two years ago, is gradually becoming properly integrated and its sections are functioning together satisfactorily as a complete unit.

Teachers

Primary school teachers are recruited for college training after they have completed at least two years' local training following a three-year pupil teacher course. Secondary school candidates are selected for college training after they have given at least one year's probationary teaching service. The pupil teacher ratio in the Government primary schools for trained teachers at the end of December, 1956, was 121 to 1, and for untrained teachers 90 to 1. One male teacher from the Secondary School was awarded a scholarship to the University College of the West Indies to study for a B.Sc. General Degree, the course being financed under the West Indies Scholarship Scheme.

Expenditure

Expenditure on education from local Government funds over the last four years was as follows:

On	*1953*	*1954*	*1955*	*1956*
	$	$	$	$(est.)
Primary education . . .	99,313	105,232	89,777	115,942
Secondary education . .	22,401	23,193	30,499	33,687
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	121,714	128,425	120,276	149,629

Library Services

The facilities of the Public Library have been well used. There was a larger circulation of books, despite the fact that quite a number of tickets were suspended by the Librarian because holders refused to pay their fines. This accounts for the fact that at the end of 1956 the registered membership was 670 of which 319 were juvenile members, while

Digitized by Google

at the end of 1954 the numbers were 751 and 338 respectively. The total book stock is 4,212, and the circulation at the end of 1956 was 13,068. The Public Library is indebted to the Eastern Caribbean Regional Library for its valuable assistance in all matters and also to the British Council for its donations of periodicals.

Community Education

A club sponsored by the Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies, as a local effort aimed at community improvement, was established in Salem Village during 1955 and continued to function throughout 1956. It provides an opportunity for people to meet together to read, draw, paint, listen to music, organise concerts, etc. A very useful Drama Festival embracing the whole of the Leeward Islands was held during 1956 under the auspices of the Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies. Groups from Antigua and St. Kitts visited the Colony and with a local group devoted a fortnight to performing plays ; a training school in drama was conducted by a Staff Tutor from the University College.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The health of the Colony was generally satisfactory during the two year period under review. There was no serious outbreak of any infectious disease.

In 1955 there were 65 cases of influenza, and 12 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified; in 1956 the numbers were 80 and 11 respectively. The new isolation ward at the Glendon Hospital was opened early in 1956 and has been used almost exclusively for the treatment of tuberculosis cases. The use of Isonicotinic Acid, Hydrazide and Streptomycin have given better results than previous treatment.

The incidence of yaws showed a definite improvement, from 105 cases in 1955 to 71 in 1956, and while the figures for the main venereal diseases increased from 135 in 1955 to 171 in 1956, this was probably due to increasing confidence in the Government clinics from which these figures are obtained.

Mr. Falconer, a sanitarian from the World Health Organisation, conducted a detailed survey of the prevalence of the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito over the whole Colony. This showed an index of from 10 per cent in the country districts to 30 per cent in Plymouth. An eradication campaign estimated to take two years, and financed by Development and Welfare funds, was approved in the latter part of 1956 and should begin early in 1957.

A supply of dry skimmed milk powder was given by UNICEF and distributed through the Health Centres and clinics to all expectant and nursing mothers and to all children of pre-school age. This has proved to be not only a valuable supplement to the general diet, but also a means of improving the attendance rates at the clinics.

The principal groups of diseases, provision for treatment and prevention, are as follows:

Digitized by Google

Epidemic, Endemic and Infectious Diseases. In 1955, 781, and in 1956. 734, cases were treated, venereal diseases being the most prominent. There were three Health Centres and five Health Outposts at which clinics are held, preventative and curative measures being available, and the more severe cases were admitted to hospital. One case of leprosy in 1956 was transferred to the leprosarium in Antigua.

General Diseases. 443 cases were treated in 1955 and 248 in 1956 at the various clinics.

Diseases of the Nervous and Sense Organs. In 1955 there were 290 and in 1956, 223 cases treated, of which the majority were minor eye conditions. Mental cases are admitted for observation either to the observation ward at the Glendon Hospital or to Her Majesty's Prison and, if certified, are transferred to the mental institution at Antigua.

Diseases of the Circulation. There were 451 and 493 cases in 1955 and 1956 respectively.

Diseases of the Respiratory System. There were 977 and 841 cases in 1955 and 1956 respectively.

Diseases of the Digestive System. There were 1,006 and 919 cases in 1955 and 1956 respectively. The commonest complaint was gastro-enteritis, particularly in children under two years. The more severe cases were admitted to hospital for treatment.

Diseases of Infancy. There were 378 and 411 cases in 1955 and 1956 respectively. Of these, by far the largest number was due to malnutrition. Treatment was given at the various clinics and the more severe cases admitted to hospital.

Medical, Public Health and Sanitary Services

The Senior Medical Officer administers the medical, public health and sanitary services embracing the Glendon Hospital (67 beds); three Health Centres and five Health Outposts at which general, tuberculosis, pre-natal, venereal disease and yaws clinics are held; a midwifery service (10 midwives on the establishment); a sanitary service for the inspection of premises, food, etc. and the control of insect-borne diseases (3 sanitary inspectors); a public market; an infirmary for the poor and aged; medical care of the prison; port health supervision; dental inspection of and attention to the primary schools.

The Colony was divided into three medical districts as from 1st May, 1956. The Senior Medical Officer is also medical officer of District II, and there are now two other medical officers, one of whom is the superintendent and surgeon of the Glendon Hospital.

The staff of the Glendon Hospital comprises the Medical Superintendent, a Nursing Sister (Matron), one Charge Nurse, 6 staff nurses, 12 student nurses, one dispenser and a laboratory technician. Emigration to the United Kingdom during 1955 and 1956 has resulted in serious staff shortages in the medical and health services.

Digitized by Google

Infant welfare, pre-natal care and the midwifery services were satisfactorily maintained throughout the period.

There are three sanitary supervision areas covering the whole Colony and three sanitary inspectors work in them under the Senior Medical Officer who is the Public Health Authority.

Expenditure

Expenditure on the medical, public health and allied services in 1954–56 was as follows:

On	*1954*	*1955*	*1956*
	$	$	$(est.)
Medical Services . . .	19,238	19,971	22,010
Public Health	24,374	25,689	27,913
Hospitals	49,666	53,429	70,295
Other	23,184	23,010	27,973
TOTAL	116,462	122,099	148,191

HOUSING SCHEME

Under the aided self-help project 25 houses were built during 1955 at two different places in the island. The original project has not worked very satisfactorily, and with the help and advice of two International Co-operation Administration technicians attached to the Caribbean Commission, the Housing Committee has re-orientated the scheme and at the end of 1956 work had begun on a new project to erect 14 houses in a small village south of the town of Plymouth.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The Public Assistance Committee administered the Government grant, supplemented by voluntary contributions, for providing weekly relief allowances to the aged, the poor and needy. The Government also maintained the Infirmary where the aged and infirm who have no means of subsistence, or no one to care for them, are looked after. The local branch of the British Red Cross Society continued its valuable activities; a blind man was sent to Antigua to the blind institution for training in handicrafts, his maintenance being provided for by funds made available by the Society and supplemented by Government aid.

The youth movements, i.e. Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Church groups of young people, reported satisfactory progress during the period under review. Contingents of Scouts and Guides visited Antigua in January, 1955, to take part in the welcome to Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret.

There are no probation services in the Colony. A number of well-intentioned persons have started to collect funds for establishing a home for delinquent boys.

Digitized by Google

Chapter 8 : Legislation

DURING the period 35 ordinances were enacted of which the more important were:

British Caribbean Shipping Agreement. Ordinance No. 3 of 1955 gives validity to the Agreement entered into between the Government of the Colony and of other British Caribbean territories on the one hand and the West Indies Navigation Company Limited on the other for the provision of a steamship service linking the said territories.

Electricity, Ice and Cold Storage. Ordinance No. 4 of 1955 provides for the generation and supply of electricity, the operation of cold storage plants and the manufacture and sale of ice by the Electricity and Cold Storage Department.

Cotton Marketing. Ordinance No. 6 of 1955 creates a body corporate to market cotton and to regulate and control the export thereof.

Prison Control. Ordinance No. 10 of 1955 gave effect to the change of policy whereby the administration, management and discipline of prisons was transferred from Federal to local authority.

Public Service Commission. Ordinance No. 1 of 1956 provides for the creation of a Public Service Commission.

Development Loan. Ordinance No. 2 of 1956 authorises the raising of a loan for financing improvements to the ice and cold storage facilities of the Colony.

Laws and Public Offices—change of terms. Ordinance No. 6 of 1956 substitutes in the laws of Montserrat the expression " Colony " for the expression " Presidency " and the expression " Administrator " for the expression " Commissioner " when used in reference to the officer administering the Government of Montserrat, and provides that statutory appointments to offices and bodies corporate or unincorporate in the Presidency shall be deemed to be appointments to corresponding offices and bodies in the Colony.

Education Ordinance. No. 11 of 1956 enacts legislation relating to all types of education in the Colony of Montserrat consequent on the repeal of the Elementary Education Act.

Treatment of Lepers. Ordinance No. 12 of 1956 makes provision for the segregation and treatment of lepers.

Treatment of persons of unsound mind. Ordinance No. 13 of 1956 makes provision for the custody and treatment of persons of unsound mind.

Amendment of Interpretation and General Clauses Act. Ordinance No. 15 of 1956 extends the definition of " Governor " to include the officer administering the Government of the Colony in all legislation having effect on the 1st July, 1956, excepting legislation where it is

Digitized by Google

clearly intended that references to the "Governor" shall be construed to mean the Governor of the Leeward Islands.

Marketing of Fruit. Ordinance No. 16 of 1956 establishes a body corporate to control and regulate the export and marketing of fruit.

Forestry. Ordinance No. 21 of 1956 repeals and replaces the Forestry Ordinance, 1946. In effect the new Ordinance amends the 1946 one in accordance with suggestions made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Chapter 9 : Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

As a result of the defederation of the Leeward Islands on the 1st July, 1956, the legislature of the Colony of Montserrat became the only law-making body for the Colony (apart from the Imperial Parliament). However, most of the Leeward Islands Acts in force immediately prior to defederation were (with modification) made to continue in force in the Colony of Montserrat by the Adaptation of Laws Regulations (1956 No. 15) made by the Governor under section 5 of the Leeward Islands (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order in Council, 1956, (Imperial S. I. 1956 No. 833).

The ordinances of Montserrat and the Acts of the Leeward Islands constitute a fairly considerable body of statute law in force in the Colony. In addition there are a number of Imperial Statutes such as the British Nationality Act and the Merchant Shipping Act which are applicable to all Colonial territories and therefore have force and effect in the Colony. Subject to these the Common Law of England is applicable to Montserrat.

The Courts of Law in the Colony are:

(i) The Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands which sits twice a year in the Montserrat Circuit to hold the criminal assizes and try civil cases.

(ii) The Court of Summary Jurisdiction (presided over by a Judge of the Supreme Court) which provides a relatively cheap and summary procedure for claims within £50. The sitting of this Court usually takes place immediately after the Circuit Court cases.

(iii) The Magistrate's Court, Montserrat, which constitutes the Magisterial District "I" of the Leeward Islands.

(iv) The Juvenile Court which sits once a month.

(v) The Coroner's Court.

Appeals from the Magistrate are heard by the Judge in either the Supreme Court or the Summary Court, whichever first holds a sitting after the expiration of 15 days from the day on which the decision of the Magistrate was given. A further appeal by the party aggrieved by the order of the Judge may be taken to the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands Court of Appeal.

Digitized by Google

Appeals from the judgments of the Summary Court and from convictions in the Supreme Court in the criminal circuit as well as from certain of its judgments and orders in civil cases and matters are also heard by the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands Court of Appeal. The higher courts of appeal are the West Indian Court of Appeal and Her Majesty's Privy Council.

The Juvenile Court was established in 1949. The District Magistrate and two assessors, one of whom is a lady, constitute this Court. Its procedure is prescribed by the Juvenile Courts Procedure Rules, 1949, (Leeward Islands S.R. & O. No. 17 of 1949). The Juvenile Act, 1949, constitutes the code which regulates the legal protection and treatment of Juveniles.

Supreme Court. On the criminal side preliminary enquiries into indictable cases numbered 21 in 1955 and 27 in 1956 as against 18 in 1954. Twenty-three persons were involved in 1955 and 30 in 1956. The results of the cases were as follows:

	1955	*1956*
Acquitted	7	9
Nolle Prosequi	1	4
Convicted:		
(*a*) Imprisoned	15	9
(*b*) Bound over or put on Probation	—	4

In two cases in 1956 two accused were found to be insane and were detained as criminal lunatics while two cases were remitted to the Magistrate to be tried summarily. The cases tried and adjudicated in the Supreme Court were mainly for larceny and assaults of various kinds; there were four cases of rape (no convictions); two cases of murder (no convictions); and one case of manslaughter (no conviction). The sentences of imprisonment are shown below:

	No.	
Sentenced to	*1955*	*1956*
9 months	1	2
12 months	1	1
14 months	—	1
18 months	—	1
2 years	6	3
2½ years	1	—
3 years	2	1
4 years	1	—
5 years	3	—

On the civil side of the Supreme Court, 11 cases were heard in 1955, of which one was a divorce case in which a decree absolute was granted, and one was a Probate case. In the Court of Summary Jurisdiction three cases were heard and determined. In 1956 two civil cases were heard of which one was also a divorce case in which a decree absolute was granted. In the Court of Summary Jurisdiction three cases were heard and determined.

Magistrate's Court. A total of 1,377 adjudications were made in 1955 and 1,241 in 1956. Offences against the person and revenue predomin-

Digitized by Google

nated in the cases heard, and offences of lesser frequency included praedial larceny and malicious injuries. The results of the cases adjudicated are shown below:

	1955	*1956*
Imprisonment	43	53
Whipping	10	4
Fines	611	839
Bound over, reprimanded or otherwise	296	86
Committed for trial or sentence	22	25
Dismissed on merits of the case	103	80
Withdrawn or struck out	292	154
	1,377	1,241

Terms of imprisonment ranged from under one month up to 18 months. There were 131 civil processes filed in 1955 and 111 in 1956. Seventeen Grants of Probate and Letters of Administration were issued in 1955 and 14 in 1956.

POLICE

The Police Force constitutes "C" Division of the Leeward Islands Police Force and was under the command of an Assistant Superintendent of Police. The strength of the Force was 33 of all ranks at 31st December, 1956, and comprised:

Assistant Superintendent	1
Inspector	1
Sergeant	1
Corporals	9
Constables	21
TOTAL	33

The average age of all ranks at 31st December, 1956, was 30 years, 3·7 years less than at 31st December, 1954. The police force is distributed throughout the island at five stations with headquarters in Plymouth.

In 1955 the Traffic Department issued 220 driving licences and in 1956, 230. The following table shows prosecutions instituted for breach of the Traffic Ordinance and Regulations, and traffic accidents for the last five years:

	1952	*1953*	*1954*	*1955*	*1956*
No. of prosecutions	91	90	97	67	99
No. of convictions	86	81	20	65	91
No. of traffic accidents	16	11	21	39	24
No. of persons injured	3	Nil	Nil	20	15
No. of persons killed	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	3

The total number of sets of finger prints on file at the end of 1956 was 184, the same as at the end of 1954. The Criminal Investigation Department is not equipped for scientific crime detection, hence no identifications were made by means of finger prints during the period.

The Police maintained their usual surveillance of all vessels entering and leaving the port of Plymouth. There were no prosecutions under the Immigration Laws.

Digitized by Google

General Divisional Board meetings of the Police Welfare Association were held, and the men showed keen interest in the affairs of the Association.

Under Section 13 (i) of the Weights and Measures Act (Cap. 154) the authorised Police Officer inspected and tested scales and weights in 1955 and in 1956.

Crime	*1955*	*1956*
True reports of crimes	340	348
Closed undetected	170	150
Charges brought	162	182
Under enquiry at end of year	8	16

Results of the Court proceedings in the charges brought were as follows:

	1955	*1956*
Found Guilty	121	140
Acquitted	11	15
Withdrawn before prosecution started	22	19
Pending trial at end of year	8	8

Number of persons apprehended or summoned for crimes:

	1955	*1956*
Males	162	38
Females	34	37

47·6 per cent of crimes investigated were detected in 1955 and 52·3 per cent in 1956. Types of crime have altered as follows:

Breaking offences showed in 1955 an increase of 25·2 per cent over 1954 and in 1956 20 per cent over 1955;

Wounding and assaults showed no increase in 1955 over 1954, but in 1956 there was an increase of 17·21 per cent over 1955;

Animal theft in 1955 showed an increase of 11·9 per cent over 1954 and in 1956 an increase of 6·3 per cent over 1955;

Praedial larceny in 1955 showed a rather slight increase over 1954 and in 1956 a decrease of 20·9 per cent as compared with 1955.

Smuggling is almost non-existent.

PRISONS

The prison has two main blocks of buildings with cell accommodation for 30 males and six females. The Assistant Superintendent of Police is the Officer in Charge of Prison Discipline and the staff comprises one keeper, eight warders and a matron. One warder was given a course in woodwork and cabinet-making at the Vocational School in Puerto Rico. During 1955 eight charges were brought against subordinate prison staff; four were fined, one was reduced in rank on two charges and two were reprimanded. In 1956 only two charges were brought; in one case the officer was severely reprimanded and in the other the charge was dismissed.

Digitized by Google

In 1955 the number of persons admitted to prison was 90 of whom 27 had previous convictions. In 1956 the numbers were 80 and 52 respectively. Of those convicted and committed in 1955 there were 83 males and seven females, while in 1956 the numbers were 75 males and five females. The daily average prison population was 21·0 in 1955 and 24·96 in 1956.

Male prisoners were employed, as customary, in carpentry, tailoring, shoe-repairing, baking, breaking stones and woodcutting, while the females were engaged in washing, sewing, cleaning and in breaking stones. During the year two juveniles were remanded to the prison, one was released on bail and the other, at the time of writing, was awaiting trial.

There were 95 offences against prison discipline in 1955 and 133 in 1956. They were dealt with as follows:

	1955	*1956*
Diet and confinement to cells . .	60	90
Diet and loss of marks . . .	12	17
Cautions	12	17

The general health of the prisoners remained satisfactory throughout the period, though eight males and two females were admitted to the hospital in 1956 for minor ailments. The dietary scale is well-balanced and most prisoners gain weight during their term of imprisonment. Religious services were held regularly and ministers of religion paid periodical visits.

One remanded prisoner in 1955 and two convicted prisoners in 1956 escaped. They were all recaptured within a short time.

With effect from the 1st July, 1956, all prisoners with sentences exceeding one month earn remission at the rate of $\frac{1}{3}$ of their sentence, provided that the remission does not make the period become less than 31 days. Formerly the remission was $\frac{1}{4}$ of the sentence for males and $\frac{1}{3}$ for females. The Prisoners' Aid Board provides help for discharged prisoners who serve sentences of less than six months, should it be deemed necessary. Discharged prisoners who have been sentenced for six months and over are allowed 24c per week for the time served.

The average annual cost of each prisoner in 1955 was $229 and the average cost of feeding each was $154. In 1956 the amounts were $360 and $250 respectively.

Digitized by Google

Chapter 10 : Public Utilities and Public Works

Electricity

The new electricity scheme for Plymouth was inaugurated in 1955 as a 12-hour service and by the end of 1956 had developed into a 24-hour service. It is at present mostly confined to the supply of light, but the current is gradually being used for domestic appliances and indications are that this use will rapidly expand.

Water services

These have been maintained in good condition generally. Water had to be shut off in the town of Plymouth at regular intervals until the 1st August, 1956, when the pipe-line bringing abundant supplies of water from the Killiekrankie Springs was connected to the existing mains in Plymouth. The Windmill Pump at the village of Weekes, which also serves St. George's Hill village, was damaged by hurricane " Betsy " in August, 1956, thus causing the area to be deprived of a stable supply of water for the rest of the year. A pipe-line was laid connecting the Farrells Water Tank to Harris Reservoir in order to supplement the supply of water in that District. The water supply in the Northern District is still inadequate and the situation was investigated by a Water Engineer from Antigua with a view to devising a scheme to increase the supply.

Public Works

The period under review was one of intense activity throughout. A large programme of repair and maintenance work on Government buildings was executed and many works of a non-recurrent nature completed. In addition, in 1956, owing to the change in the planting season of cotton, emergency works had to be undertaken by the Government to provide work for labourers normally employed on the cotton crop. Most of the major new works were financed from Colonial Development and Welfare grants and include the Plymouth and Molyneaux health clinics, the electricity power station, a new block at the Secondary School, observation block, X-ray room and isolation ward at Glendon Hospital, Radio Montserrat Studio and the waiting room at Blackburne Airfield.

Digitized by Google

Chapter 11 : Communications

SHIPPING

PLYMOUTH is the only seaport of entry and clearance for passengers and freight. An open roadstead, the port has a large wooden pier which now requires urgent overhauling. Row boats and droughers are used to convey passengers and cargo from vessels in the harbour to the pier.

The s.s. *West Indian* operates on a three-weekly schedule between British Guiana and Jamaica, calling at Montserrat both ways. There is now only one motor launch offering regular service between the small islands. Other steamer communication is irregular.

During 1955, 247 steamers and motor vessels and 178 sailing crafts entered and cleared from the port of Plymouth, while in 1956 the numbers were 195 and 207 respectively.

CIVIL AVIATION

With the opening of Blackburne Airfield in 1956, the Leeward Islands Air Transport Company now operates a scheduled air service between Montserrat, Antigua and St. Kitts, connecting with the international air lines at the last two islands. This air service is now being widely used.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The main asphalted roads which traverse the island in all directions total 40 miles, while the secondary unsurfaced roads total some 32 miles. The numbers of vehicles licensed in 1954–1956 were as follows:

	1954	*1955*	*1956*
Motor Cars . . .	119	106	108
Buses and Trucks . .	21	29	33
Motor Cycles . . .	12	12	9
Pedal Cycles . . .	91	223	119

The island's road system was maintained in good condition. The main roads surfaced with colas were patched and seal coated where necessary and side drains cleared of weeds. The secondary road and village by-ways received attention in a number of places. The Tar River/Roaches road, which is intended to lengthen the main road in the Windward District, was begun late in 1955 and work continued until September, 1956, when it was stopped in order to release labour for the cotton planting season. The St. John's/Trants road, which is intended to link up the Northern District with the Eastern main road and the Windward District, was started in March, 1956, and work progressed satisfactorily until September when labour was withdrawn for cotton planting. Maintenance and repair work was carried out on several bridges.

Digitized by Google

POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The General Post Office is located in Plymouth and there are sub-post offices throughout the island. There is a letter-box service supplemented by house-to-house delivery in Plymouth. Country mails are delivered at the sub-post offices by itinerant postmen and people call for their letters.

The telephone system, a two-line metallic type with one central exchange, does not now give satisfactory service. A new and larger switch board has been ordered. Considerable damage has been done to the line system in the country by hurricane " Betsy " and new poles and wire have had to be ordered. There were 98 connections at the end of 1956 of which 45 were to Government Departments and Offices.

Cable and Wireless Company Limited gave their usual satisfactory radio-telephone service throughout the period.

Chapter 12 : Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

Press. Only one newspaper, the *Observer*, a weekly English language paper is now issued in the Colony. It had an estimated circulation of 500 copies at the end of 1956.

Broadcasting. A small new studio to be operated by the Montserrat Broadcasting Committee has been built with a grant from Development and Welfare funds and should begin to function in the near future. The broadcasting of local programmes and BBC transcriptions was held up for a considerable part of 1956 while the new studio was being constructed.

Films. The small commercial cinema in Plymouth has been reorganised under a new management and during 1956 gave five shows, of good standard, weekly. It is estimated that the annual attendance is now well over 5,000.

Government Information Service. There is no Government information service as such, but continued use was made of the public notice boards, and the local press, as a means of keeping the people informed of administrative activities of public interest as well as of current affairs generally.

Digitized by Google

Chapter 13 : Local Forces

THE local forces consist of the Defence Force and the Police Force. The Defence Force is a part-time locally recruited unit of approximately one Infantry Platoon in strength, trained and equipped for internal security. Training was given in foot and arms drill, ceremonial drill, field craft, tactical exercises and range practices. The annual camp was held in 1955 and 1956.

Expenditure on the Defence Force over the last four years was as follows:

	$
1953 . .	2,803
1954 . .	2,820
1955 . .	3,510
1956 . .	2,996

The Police Force which constitutes " C " Division of the Leeward Islands Police under the unified command of a Commissioner of Police is described in Chapter 9. The Force is charged with preservation of peace, the prevention and detection of crime, and other infractions of the law.

Digitized by Google

PART III

Chapter 1 : Geography and Climate

MONTSERRAT lies in 16° 45′ North Latitude and 60° 15′ West Longitude and 27 miles south-west of Antigua and some 40 miles north-west of Guadeloupe. It resembles a leg of ham in shape and has a maximum length of 11 miles and a maximum breadth of seven. Its area is 32½ square miles. The island is of volcanic origin and has three main mountain ridges—Silver Hill in the north (1,287 ft.), Central Hill in the middle of the island (2,499 ft.) and the Soufrière Hills in the south (3,002 ft.).

The climate of the island is tropical and healthy, the mean maximum temperature being 86° F. and the mean minimum temperature 73° F. The annual average rainfall is about 55 inches, the range being from 40 to 70 inches. The central part of the west coast receives more rain than the east coast. The north and south are dry. The incidence of rainfall is extremely variable, but the rainiest months are usually from September to November and the dry season usually from December to June. Montserrat is windswept for the greater part of the year.

Chapter 2 : History

THE island was discovered by Columbus on his second voyage to the New World in 1493. It was colonised in 1632 when a number of Irishmen who formed a part of Thomas Warner's company came across from the neighbouring island of St. Christopher (St. Kitts) and made their homes there. It was captured by the French in 1664, restored to England in 1668, capitulated to the French again in 1782, and was finally ceded to Britain in the year 1783.

Chapter 3: Administration

THE Leeward Islands Federation came to an end on the 1st July, 1956 by Imperial Act of Parliament, and Montserrat and the other units of the Leeward Islands became separate Colonies under the same Governor. The Montserrat Legislative Council consists of the Administrator as President, two official members, two nominated members and five elected members. One of the elected members is also Deputy-President of the Council. There is adult suffrage under the provisions of the Constitution and Elections Ordinance, 1952.

Digitized by Google

The Executive Council consists of the Administrator (who becomes an *ex officio* member when the Governor is present at a meeting), two official members, one nominated member and two elected members. The " Membership System " has been introduced in order to associate the elected members more closely with the Administration.

Montserrat constitutes a separate circuit of the Windward Islands and the Leeward Islands Supreme court. The Court sits twice a year, usually in the months of May and October. The Magistrate's Court which sits in the town of Plymouth, has jurisdiction in summary matters (see also Chapter 9).

Chapter 4 : Weights and Measures

THE inspection of weights and measures was duly carried out as required under section 13(1) of the Weights and Measures Act (Cap 154). During 1955 and 1956, respectively, 136 and 610 weights and measures were tested by an authorised police officer. The standard measures recognised in the Colony are as follows:

(*a*) Standard of length: the imperial yard.
(*b*) Standard of weight: the imperial pound.
(*c*) Standard of capacity: the imperial gallon.

Chapter 5 : Reading List

GENERAL

ASPINALL, Sir A. *Pocket Guide to the West Indies.* Methuen, 1954.
WATKINS, F. H. *Handbook of the Leeward Islands.* West India Committee, 1924.

DESCRIPTIVE

ASPINALL, Sir A. *A Wayfarer in the West Indies.* West India Committee, 1928.
FROUDE, J. A. *The English in the West Indies.* Longman Green, 1888.

HISTORICAL

EDWARDS, BRYAN. *History of British Colonies in the West Indies.* John Stockdale, 1793.
SOUTHEY, Captain THOMAS. *Chronological History of the West Indies.* Longman, Rees, Orme Brown & Green, 1827.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

(Obtainable from the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations, 4 Millbank, London, S.W.1.)
Antigua, Montserrat and Virgin Islands Gazette. Antigua Government Printing Office, Weekly.

Digitized by Google

APPENDIX I

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

His Honour the Administrator, A. F. Dawkins.
Honourable F. O. C. Harris, Crown Attorney.
Honourable O. E. Henry, Treasurer.
Honourable R. W. Griffith, Member for Trade and Production.
Honourable J. C. L. Wall, Member for Public Works and Social Services
Honourable M. S. Osborne, O.B.E., Nominated Member.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

His Honour the Administrator, A. F. Dawkins, Esquire, (President).
Honourable F. O. C. Harris, Crown Attorney, (Official).
Honourable O. E. Henry, Treasurer (Official).
Honourable J. C. L. Wall, Deputy President and First Elected Member for the Southern District.
Honourable R. W. Griffith, Second Elected Member for the Southern District.
Mr. W. H. Bramble, Elected Member for the Windward District.
Mr. H. H. Lee, Elected Member for the Northern District.
Mr. M. E. Walkinshaw, Elected Member for the Central District.
Mr. A. W. Griffin, O.B.E., First Nominated Member.
Honourable M. S. Osborne, O.B.E., Second Nominated Member.

APPENDIX II

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEME INITIATED OR IN PROGRESS FROM THE 1ST JANUARY, 1955, TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1956

Scheme	*Title*	*Amount Spent (Approximately)*		*Remarks*
		$	£*	
D 13 D (ae)	Fencing Sturge Park	2,208·00	460	Completed in 1955
D201 B(w)	Hill Rice	470·40	98	,, ,,
D666	Otway Peasant Settlement	104,020·80	21,671	,, ,,
D1108 (284)	Training in Agriculture	1,435·20	299	,, ,,
D1108 (293)	Training of Sanitary Inspector	1,824·00	380	,, ,,
D1108 (361)	Training in Telephone Maintenance	1,017·60	212	Completed in 1956
D1108 (283)	Training in Public Health	1,272·00	265	,, ,,
D1669	Senior Secondary School	102,259·20	21,304	In progress

Digitized by Google

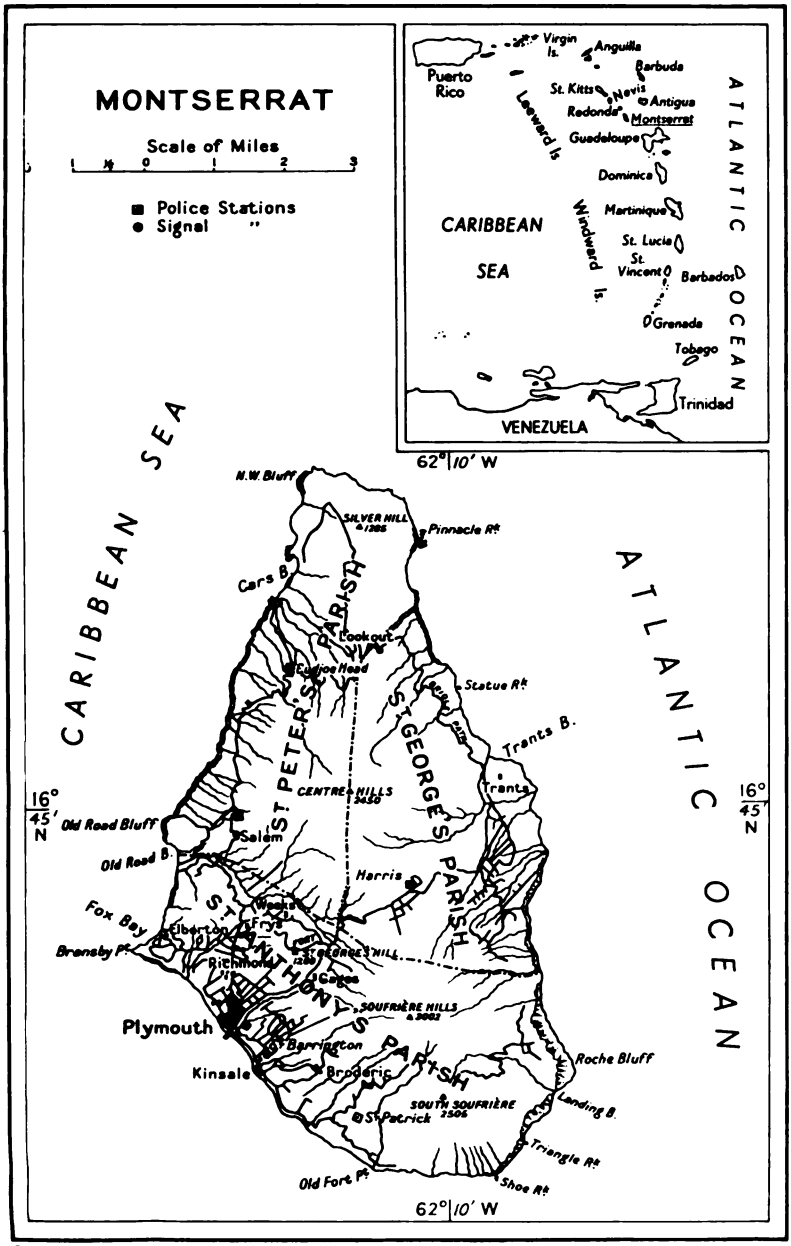
Scheme No.	*Title*	*Amount Spent (Approximately)*		*Remarks*
		$	£*	
D201 C(p)	Marketing Officer	1,281·60	267	Completed in 1956
D2018	Housing	34,468·80	7,181	" "
D2131	Glendon Hospital	29,760·00	6,200	" "
D2153	Livestock Development	22,939·20	4,779	" "
D2157	Olveston Airfield	13,920·00	2,900	" "
D2177	Broadcasting	6,638·40	1,383	" "
D2304	Aeronautical Telecommunication Olveston Airfield	3,744·00	780	In Progress
D2361	Training of Teachers	1,632·00	340	Completed in 1955
D2370	Civil Aviation	360·00	75	" "
D2399	Electricity	120,360·00	25,075	In progress
D2411(1)	Vocational Training Puerto Rico	124·80	26	Completed in 1956
D2506	Plymouth Health Centre	14,352·00	2,990	" "
D2531	Molyneaux Health Centre	7,118·40	1,483	" "
D2532	Improvement of Plymouth Water Supply	54,830·40	11,423	In progress
D2535	Soil Conservation	3,475·20	724	"
D2536	Fodder Grass Subsidy	307·20	64	"
D2566 & A	Training of Teachers at Erdiston College Barbados	2,592·00†	540	"
D2577 & A, B	Road Construction	55,262·40	11,513	"
D2591 & A	Trants Airfield	45,940·80	9,571	"
D2665	Road Superintendent	3,571·20	744	"
D2631	Land Clearing Equipment	81,609·60	17,002	"
D2658 (4)	Training in Radiography	307·20	64	"
D2658(9)	Public Health Training	633·60	132	"
D2717(8)	Minor Amenities	393·60	82	"
D2726	Training of Teachers	1,929·60	402	Completed in 1956
D2855	Marketing Officer	614·40	128	In progress
D2871	Housing	4,286·40	893	"
D2978	Livestock Development	3,062·40	638	"

* To nearest £. †£131 met from local funds.

Printed in Great Britain under the authority of Her Majesty's Stationery Office by Hugh Evans & Sons, Limited, Liverpool.

(A3928) Wt.3793. K9. Gp.538

Digitized by Google



Drawn by Directorate of Overseas Surveys 1957 D.O.S. 911

Printed by No. 1 SPC, RE. 1957.
4000/8/57

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Other Publications in the Series

ANNUAL REPORTS

BASUTOLAND
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE
BR. GUIANA
BR. HONDURAS
BRUNEI
CYPRUS
FIJI
GIBRALTAR
HONG KONG
JAMAICA
KENYA
MAURITIUS
NIGERIA
N. BORNEO
N. RHODESIA
NYASALAND
SARAWAK
SIERRA LEONE
SINGAPORE
SWAZILAND
TRINIDAD
UGANDA

BIENNIAL REPORTS

ADEN
ANTIGUA
BAHAMAS
BARBADOS
BERMUDA
BR. SOLOMON IS.
BR. VIRGIN IS.
CAYMAN IS.
DOMINICA
FALKLAND IS.
GAMBIA
GILBERT AND ELLICE IS.
GRENADA
MONTSERRAT
NEW HEBRIDES
ST. KITTS-NEVIS -ANGUILLA
ST. HELENA
ST. LUCIA
ST. VINCENT
SEYCHELLES
SOMALILAND
TONGA
TURKS AND CAICOS IS.
ZANZIBAR

A standing order for selected Reports or for the complete series will be accepted by any one of the Bookshops of H.M. Stationery Office at these addresses :

York House, Kingsway, London W.C.2
423 Oxford Street, London W.1
13a Castle Street, Edinburgh 2
39 King Street, Manchester 2
2 Edmund Street, Birmingham 3
109 St. Mary Street, Cardiff
Tower Lane, Bristol 1
80 Chichester Street, Belfast

A deposit of £9 (nine pounds) should accompany standing orders for the complete series.

Orders may also be placed through any bookseller

Digitized by Google

S.O. Code No. 58-1-2

Digitized by Google

17297
1769r
Please do not
Trim

Montserrat

1957 and 1958

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1960
PRICE 3*s.* 6*d.* NET

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

G 472.11
M 16 R
1957-58

MONTSERRAT

Report for the years 1957 and 1958

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1960

Digitized by Google

THE LIBRARY

CONTENTS

AUG 17 1960

PART I

			Page
Chapter	1	General Review	3

THE LIBRARY

PART II

			Page
Chapter	1	Population	6
	2	Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation	6
	3	Public Finance and Taxation	9
	4	Currency and Banking	10
	5	Commerce	11
	6	Production	12
	7	Social Services	16
	8	Legislation	22
	9	Justice, Police and Prisons	24
	10	Public Utilities and Public Works	28
	11	Communications	29
	12	Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services	30
	13	Local Forces	31

PART III

			Page
Chapter	1	Geography	32
	2	History	32
	3	Administration	33
	4	Weights and Measures	33
	5	Reading List	33

APPENDICES			Page
	I	Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils	35
	II	Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	36

A map will be found facing the last page

Digitized by Google

PART I

General Review

Constitutional

The year 1957 saw the final stages of the preparatory work for launching the new Federation of The West Indies. The Standing Federation Committee held three meetings, all of which were attended by the delegate from Montserrat, Mr. W. H. Bramble. On 3rd January, 1958, Lord Hailes, Governor General of The West Indies, arrived in Trinidad and assumed office. At the end of January, 1958, the Governor General paid his first visit to Montserrat, and in July Lady Hailes visited the colony.

On 22nd April, 1958, Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret formally inaugurated the Federal Parliament in Trinidad. The colony sent a small delegation to this historic and glittering ceremony.

In March, 1958, elections to the Federal House of Representatives were held throughout The West Indies. The constitution provides that Montserrat shall have one member and one alternate member. On 8th May, 1958, elections to the local Legislative Council took place. The names of those elected are given in Appendix I.

Economic

The economy of the island is necessarily agricultural and the chief crop continues to be sea island cotton. 1957 saw the reaping of the first cotton crop planted in the new season. Results both in that year and in 1958 were most encouraging and it is now generally accepted that the new season is preferable to the old. The 1957–58 crop was however seriously affected by labour troubles. A strike which started in November, 1957, gradually spread through nearly all estates until by the end of December work was virtually at a standstill. Work was resumed early in January, 1958, but not before very considerable damage had been done to the crop. A Board of Enquiry, under the chairmanship of Sir Clement Malone sat at the end of January and the recommendations, which were not received till May, were eventually accepted, after long negotiations, by both sides of the industry, and so far as it was concerned, by the Government. It is hoped that the Board's report will prepare the way for a gradual but steady improvement in the relations between management and labour; the suspicion, mistrust and even hostility which have for so long governed these relations have hindered a healthy development of the cotton industry.

It has come to be realised, however, that so long as the country's economy is founded on one crop, there can be no certainty or

(79700) A*

Digitized by Google

stability in economic development. With this in mind strenuous efforts have been made during the period to broaden the basis of the economy. Thus active steps were taken to develop a banana industry and the livestock industry and to develop cane-growing. The only traditional secondary export crop, vegetables, was very severely hit by shipping difficulties. Towards the end of the period there were signs that, by fully exploiting markets nearer at hand, and by the use of air transport, these difficulties might be overcome.

External Communications

The opening of Blackburne Airfield in 1956 has had an advantageous effect on the island's economy and life which it is impossible to exaggerate. The only air operating company, Leeward Islands Air Transport, has been obliged to expand its services to cope with the demand to an extent greater than was anticipated. Visitors to the island, whether tourists, travelling agents, Government officers, technical advisers or potential investors, are now able to plan their visits, both into and out of the island.

Sea communications deteriorated during the period for two reasons: the Canadian National Steamships terminated their service to the islands, and the *Caribbee* a locally-owned motor vessel which gave a regular inter-island service was tragically lost in a storm off Dominica on 29th August, 1958.

Development and Welfare Schemes

These have covered a wide range of activities designed to improve social conditions as well as to broaden the basis of the island's economy. Montserrat received an allocation of £124,000 under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act of 1945 as a contribution towards a ten-year development plan. This plan was revised at the end of 1951 and grants from the United Kingdom Treasury brought the total allocation to £188,000. For the period 1955–60 a further allocation of £180,000 was made, and this was supplemented by a further allocation of £100,000 in early 1957. The 1955–60 development plan includes schemes for economic development, e.g., soil conservation, livestock projects, land clearing, vegetable production and marketing, banana cultivation, fisheries development; public works, e.g., road construction, flood prevention measures, erection of navigational lights for Plymouth; social services, e.g., health clinics, hospital improvement, housing and water supplies. Schemes initiated or in progress during 1957 and 1958 are shown at Appendix II.

Important Visits

The Governor of the Leeward Islands, Sir Alexander Williams visited Montserrat on three occasions during the period.

The Governor General of The West Indies and Lady Hailes visited (as mentioned above) in 1958. Mr. John Profumo, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, spent a few hours in

Digitized by Google

Montserrat on 6th May, 1958; Mr. J. E. Marnham, Assistant Secretary, Colonial Office, visited from 13th to 16th October, 1958; Mr. R. H. Hobden, Principal, Colonial Office visited from 5th to 9th November, 1957. The late Countess Mountbatten of Burma visited on 30th January, 1958, for a few hours. The colony was also visited by the Secretary of State's Medical Adviser (Sir Eric Pridie); the Secretary of State's Educational Adviser (Sir Christopher Cox); the Deputy Inspector-General of Colonial Police (Mr. Deegan); the Federal Chief Justice (Sir Eric Hallinan); the Federal Advisers on Agriculture, Marketing, Building, Fisheries and Forestry. A United Kingdom parliamentary delegation comprising Lord Hastings and Mr. A. Blenkinsop visited the colony from 14th to 17th May, 1958.

Administration

Sir Alexander Williams was appointed Governor of the Leeward Islands and assumed duty in February, 1957.

Mr. A. F. Dawkins, who was appointed Administrator of Montserrat on secondment from the Sierra Leone Service in 1956, served in this capacity throughout the period.

Digitized by Google

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE estimated population of the island was 14,377 at the end of 1957 and 14,465 at the end of 1958. Statistics of births, deaths, arrivals and departures are given below.

	1955	*1956*	*1957*	*1958*
Mid-year population, estimate .	14,290*	14,378*	14,382*	14,290†
Total live births, estimate. .	428	396	373	377
Birth rate per 1,000, estimate .	30·0	28·0	25·94	26·38
Deaths, estimate . . .	173	166	162	172
Death rate per 1,000, estimate .	12·1	11·5	11·2	12·0

* Mean of end-year estimates.

† As at 30th June, 1958.

Arrivals and Departures

Year	*Arrivals*			*Departures*		
	Males	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
1954	1,735	1,355	3,090	1,686	1,193	2,879
1955	2,147	1,499	3,646	1,935	1,675	3,610
1956	1,657	1,190	2,847	1,697	1,478	3,175
1957	1,702	1,247	2,949	1,674	1,430	3,104
1958	1,430	994	2,424	1,457	1,084	2,541

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

EMPLOYMENT

THE main occupations continue to be agriculture and fishing, construction, repair and maintenance, professional and public services. Agricultural labour predominates, with cotton as the staple industry. No figures are available however of the numbers employed in the various types of work.

Emigration to the United Kingdom continued though on a reduced scale and it is estimated that some 487 persons left the Colony in 1957 and 323 in 1958 to seek work there. Ten men were recruited in 1957 and 15 in 1958, for farm work in the United States of America

Digitized by Google

among whom was one pre-designated worker. Sixty-one men were recruited in 1957 and 50 in 1958, to assist in reaping the sugar-cane crop in St. Croix.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The task and piece-work system, as well as the daily-wage system, remain the basis of cultivation operations. The daily-wage system obtains for cotton ginning operations, public workers (including road maintenance) and trades. Domestic servants and the majority of commercial clerks are paid on a weekly basis. The eight-hour day is normal for weekly paid workers. Labourers receive day-and-a-half wage rates if they work on public holidays. The principal commercial stores grant their employees two weeks paid holiday a year.

The following are examples of basic daily rates for unskilled workers prevailing at the close of 1958:

	$ c
Estate workers—men	1·30
women	·90
Government labourers—men	1·42
women	1·02

Farming on estates was paid at the rate of $4·00 per acre, and cotton picking at the rate of 3 cents per lb.

These wage rates reflect increases agreed, so far as estate workers are concerned, in negotiations following the Malone Report, mentioned later in this chapter. The rates for Government workers reflect, in the lower grades, an increase awarded to bring wages into line with those agreed for estate workers and, for all grades, a flat increase of 12 cents per day after negotiation between the Union and the Government with effect from 1st October, 1958.

COST OF LIVING

Cost of living indices are not available. A comparative schedule showing end-year retail prices of principal items of food is given below:

Articles	*1954*	*1955*	*1956*	*1957*	*1958*
	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c
Table butter (per lb. tin)	1·36	1·36	1·36	1·36	1·32
Cooking butter (per lb.)	·63	·56	·56	·62	·64
Cheese (per lb)	1·00	1·00	1·00	1·20	1·20
Eggs (each)	·07–·08	·07–·08	·08	·08	·08
Fish, dried and salted (per lb.)					
Canadian	·44	·44	·46	·46	·50
Cornmeal (per lb.)	·14	·14	·14	·14	·14
Flour (per lb.)	·12	·11	·12	·12	·12
Lard (per lb.)	·60	·54	·54	·54	·54
Meat, fresh (per lb.) :					
Beef (all cuts)	·24	·24	·30, ·36 & ·42	·30, ·36 & ·42	·30, ·36 & ·42
Goat meat	·22	·22	·30	·36	·36
Mutton	·24	·24	·30	·36	·36
Pork	·26	·26	·30	·30	·30
Soup meat	·20	·20	·30	·30	·30

Digitized by Google

Articles	*1954*	*1955*	*1956*	*1957*	*1958*
	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c
Meat, smoked or cured (per lb.):					
Bacon	1·20	1·24	1·44	1·68	1·68
Milk, condensed (per 14 oz. tin)					
Nestles	·42	·40	·42	·42	·44
Milk, fresh (26 fluid ozs.)	·07	·07	·08	·08	·08
Edible oil (Cotton seed, per imperial bottle)	·48–·60	·60	·60–·72	·60–·72	·60–·72
Potatoes (imported)	·12	·12	·12	·12	·12
Rice, Demerara (per lb.):					
Super quality	·15	·15	·15	·15	·17
Second quality	·14	·14	·14	·14	·15
Sugar (per lb):.					
Barbados (washed)	·14	·14	·14	·17	·17
Antigua (washed)	·14	·14	·14	(none imported)	
Leeward Islands crystals	·10	·10	·10	·13	·13
Onions (per lb.)	·16	·16	·16	·20	·20
Charcoal (per bag)	1·44	1·68	1·92	2·40	2·40

LABOUR RELATIONS

The period was one of unhappy labour relations. Labourers on the Wades estate, on the windward side, came out on strike during cotton picking on 27th February, 1957. The strike was called without notice, no claim for wage increases having been made, and lasted a week. A further strike was called again without notice on Trants estate on 21st October, 1957. Finally in November after the breakdown of negotiations between the Union and the newly reformed Producers' Association a strike was called on the cotton estates in the windward district. Two weeks later this spread to most of the leeward estates, until by mid-December work was virtually at a standstill. The Labour Officer from St. Kitts, at the Government's request, came to Montserrat, but his efforts to resolve the dispute were unsuccessful and early in January, 1958, the Governor appointed a Board of Enquiry. This Board under the chairmanship of Sir Clement Malone, with Mr. E. L. Walcott and Mr. W. L. Hagley as members, met in the colony between 21st and 25th January, 1958. Meanwhile work had been resumed in the cotton-fields but not before the crop had suffered considerable damage. The Board reported in May. Its recommendations regarding wages, after long and difficult negotiations presided over by Mr. Da Breo, the Labour Adviser, Windward Islands, were finally agreed to by the parties concerned. Another recommendation, that a Joint Industrial Council for the Agricultural Industry be constituted, was also accepted and the Council was formed. The Government accepted a recommendation that a Labour Officer be appointed, though it was not possible to make an appointment during 1958. At the end of the period there were signs that relations between the two sides in the agricultural industry might improve.

Digitized by Google

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

COMPARATIVE figures of revenue and expenditure in respect of the 1955/56 and 1957/58 periods are given below:

Revenue	*1955*	*1956*	*1957*	*1958*
	$	$	$	$
Customs	154,463	163,290	183,471	183,900
Internal Revenue, Excise and Licences	72,877	60,382	72,525	74,474
Fees of Court or Office, etc.	84,768	109,335	357,589	24,421*
Post Office, Telephones, etc.	205,245	65,022	85,631	160,609
Other	17,269	26,513	25,695	435,652*
Total Local Revenue	534,622	424,542	724,911	899,056
Other (including U.K. grant-in-aid and C.D. & W. grants)	560,075	763,360	521,648	956,626
GRAND TOTAL	1,094,697	1,187,902	1,246,559	1,835,682

* There has been a reclassification of revenue heads.

Expenditure	*1955*	*1956*	*1957*	*1958*
	$	$	$	$
Public Debt	2,507	4,597	3,900	9,757
Pensions	23,976	40,840	85,396	60,121
Federal Services	65,196	36,652	24,912	35,584
Administration	32,227	36,412	47,866	56,638
Agriculture	93,578	155,473	377,208	474,831
Water	6,563	7,101	7,873	12,817
Medical and Health	45,660	49,923	55,018	64,435
Hospital and Allied Services	76,439	98,268	108,752	109,773
Education	120,276	149,629	144,401	167,508
Post Office, Telephones, etc.	35,217	38,533	55,727	52,480
Public Works	119,229	67,229	107,641	158,880
Other	155,458	225,011	331,947	305,685
Total Local Expenditure	776,326	909,668	1,350,641	1,508,509
Other	138,237	284,553	160,151	388,244
GRAND TOTAL	914,563	1,194,221	1,510,792	1,896,753

PUBLIC DEBT

The public debt at the end of 1957 stood at $74,944·88. Statistics for 1958 are not yet available.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Liabilities exceeded assets by $3,886·10 at the close of 1957. Statistics for 1958 are not yet available.

Digitized by Google

TAXATION YIELDS

	1955	*1956*	*1957*	*1958*
	$	$	$	$
Import Duties . . .	154,463	162,731	182,684	183,000
Export Duties . . .	262	559	787	900
Income Tax	28,465	16,556	28,890	27,000
Excise	17,406	16,649	16,670	17,000
Post Office, etc. . . .	196,188	46,759	85,631	160,609

Import duties were derived mainly from foodstuffs, clothing, tobacco and cigarettes, spirits, sugar and motor vehicles, while export duties were derived in 1957 mainly from fruit and vegetables, including tomatoes, and in 1958 from livestock, fruit and vegetables.

British Commonwealth goods are imported into the island at preferential rates and exports from the island enjoy reciprocal treatment in Commonwealth markets. Excise duty is collected on rum at the rate of $1.20 per imperial gallon.

Small taxation yields accrue from the following:

(*a*) stamp duties from deeds, negotiable instruments, death or estate duties, and passports;

(*b*) land tax which is chargeable at the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* per acre on cultivable land and 6*d.* per acre on uncultivable land;

(*c*) motor vehicles in running order pay an annual licence tax of $9.60 each for private use and $14.00 each for commercial use. A tax of $0.96 per annum is paid on pedal bicycles;

(*d*) trade licences ranging from $9.60 to $72.00 and liquor licences from $4.80 to $24.00 per annum.

Income tax is imposed on the chargeable income of all individuals, i.e., gross income minus earned income relief, citizenship abatement, allowances for wife, children, dependent relatives, and life insurance, and is charged on a sliding scale of rates enumerated in the Income Tax Ordinance. The rate of tax upon the chargeable income of a company is 5*s.* 6*d.* in the £.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE currency in use is the unified currency of the British Caribbean Territories (Eastern Group) issued by the British Caribbean Currency Board, the notes in circulation being $1, $2, $5, $10, $20 and $100. The dollar is fixed at 4*s.* 2*d.*, that is $4.80 to the £ sterling. The dollar system of accounting is used by Government, commercial houses and the Royal Bank of Canada, the only bank in the island. English silver and copper coins (3*d.*, 6*d.*, 1*s.*, 2*s.*, and 2*s.* 6*d.* pieces) are still legal tender but their use is gradually diminishing.

The Government Savings Bank had 2,298 depositors with $507,001.96 to their credit at the 31st December, 1957. The figures

Digitized by Google

at the end of 1958 are not yet available. Current bank rates in London, New York and Canada, as well as the prevailing inter-colonial rates of exchange apply to Montserrat.

Chapter 5: Commerce

THE value of imports, exports (including re-exports) and re-exports for each of the last five years is shown below:

Year	*Imports*	*Exports (including re-exports)*	*Re-exports*
	$	$	$
1954	1,108,309	531,659	11,155
1955	1,193,240	401,822	21,739
1956	1,135,834	195,058	16,906
1957	1,395,883	394,608	31,492
1958	1,516,896	393,672	10,277

The quantity and value of the main imports and exports during the period under review are shown below:

Imports	*1957*		*1958*	
	Quantity	*Value*	*Quantity*	*Value*
		$		$
Flour (100 lb. bags)	13,600	127,806	12,950	106,837
Fish dried and salted (lb.)	128,042	30,321	175,823	49,437
Rice (180 lb. bags)	1,991	19,254	1,066	24,131
Sugar, unrefined (lb.)	1,006,511	97,982	1,018,287	107,256
Lumber, pitch pine (ft.)	82,396	19,874	36,310	8,876
Boots, shoes and slippers (prs.)	24,269	65,038	18,463	107,110
Cotton piece goods (sq. yds.)	134,847	42,608	87,037	42,609
Cheese (lb.)	25,357	14,387	17,286	12,540
Rum (gal.)	5,671	26,234	6,650	25,320
Motor cars (No.)	16	31,610	11	26,852
Cement (lb.)	1,123,409	29,204	725,620	21,088
Cotton manufactures	—	8,623	—	12,477
Rayon piece goods (sq. yds.)	66,262	18,164	46,942	23,072
Electrical equipment	—	34,196	—	118,676
Laundry soap (lb.)	44,679	9,553	52,373	11,335
Metal manufactures	—	30,444	—	45,961
Medicine and drugs	—	24,045	—	28,089
Exports				
Carrots (lb.)	73,427	10,462	36,247	6,076
Tomatoes (lb.)	112,200	16,995	2,486	316
Other vegetables	47,729	3,856	23,142	828
Raw lime juice (gal.)	8,342	8,977	17,060	18,341
Cotton lint, clean (lb.)	229,795	265,330	271,270	321,549
Cotton lint, stained (lb.)	1,561	620	2,300	700
Cotton seed meal and cake (lb.)	270,386	5,808	185,920	3,935

Digitized by Google

Chapter 6: Production

THE best estimate available of the distribution of land in the colony is:

	Acres
Cultivable and arable land	9,500
Pasture land	2,200
Forest	5,000

Of this total it is estimated that some 10,500 acres are owned by estates (much of which is operated on a rental basis) and some 6,200 acres are owned and managed by peasant proprietors. Land is held freehold under the Title by Registration Act. The share-cropping system survives on some of the estates in connection with cotton cultivation, but is gradually dying out and being replaced by the rental system.

Weather

Rainfall figures at the Grove Agricultural Station for the last four years have been:

1955	60·54
1956	77·55
1957	62·08
1958	71·88

The annual average for the last half century is about 60·5 inches. In 1957 and 1958 the distribution was fairly even except for a pronounced drought in the first four months of 1958, which had a serious effect on the yield of cotton.

Agricultural Administration

Early in 1957 a Development Officer was appointed, on a three-year contract, under a Development and Welfare scheme. The Department of Agriculture is administered by the Agricultural Superintendent. Subordinate personnel comprised five graded Agricultural Assistants in 1957. In 1958 an additional officer was appointed to give full time to forestry work. There are also on the establishment the Manager of Otway Settlement, the Livestock Officer and one Agricultural Probationer. A temporary Cotton Officer was employed locally under the supervision of the Cotton Officer in Antigua or his Assistant.

Cotton

Acreages of cotton planted under the various systems of tenure for the last four crops are given below:

	1954	*1955*	*1956–57*	*1957–58*
Estate cultivation	932	913	666	756
Peasants (freehold or rent land)	1,624	1,413	600	1,342
Share-cropping	391	182	20	87
TOTAL ACREAGE	2,947	2,508	1,286	2,185

Digitized by Google

Yields of cotton over the last four crops are as follows:

	1954	*1955*	*1956–57*	*1957–58*
Total clean lint produced (lb.) .	376,937	258,884	229,735	300,374
Clean lint per acre (lb.) . .	139	113	153	124
Stained lint % of total crop . .	7·9	8·5	6·2	9·7

The low yield in 1957–58 was due partly to the severe drought and partly to labour troubles.

The cotton crop was sold in the United Kingdom at prices ranging from $1.13 to $1.18 for the 1956–57 crop and from $1.16 to $1.19 per lb. of lint for the 1957–58 crop.

The 1956–57 crop was the first one to be reaped of the new planting date. Cotton is now planted in August/September and reaped in January/March, whereas up to 1955 it was planted in February/March and reaped in August/October. The yields suggest that the change, which was decided on after considerable debate and study, is proving to be beneficial.

Vegetables

The production of vegetables has fallen in recent years owing partly to the change in the planting season of cotton as a result of which farmers are busy working on their cotton plots when they would previously have grown vegetables; and partly to lack of transport facilities. The Canadian National Steamship boats which assisted in developing and sustaining this export trade were taken off the run in 1957, and the trade then had to rely on the West Indian boats on which refrigeration space was quite often neither adequate nor suitable.

Citrus

The acreage under lime (mostly in the ownership of the Montserrat Co. Ltd.) has been increased during the period by about 30 per cent. The new plantations show great promise. A Government scheme was approved to provide grape-fruit trees to peasants, particularly for use in the many guts where serious erosion is taking place and at the end of the period some 2,000 trees were nearly ready for distribution from the nursery.

Bananas

A major development during the period under review was the decision to grow bananas for export. During 1958, after full discussion and expert advice, a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme for the development of the banana industry was formulated and approved. During the latter part of 1958, 90,000 suckers were imported and planted, and negotiations for the sale of the bananas were brought to their final stages.

Marketing

The statutory Export Marketing Agency which was established at the end of 1956 handled all vegetables offered for sale during the

Digitized by Google

period under review and all purchasing and packing for export were carried out at the Government Marketing Depot. The following statement shows the quantities of vegetables exported:

	1955	*1956*	*1957*	*1958*
Carrots (lb.)	138,740	142,064	73,427	36,247
Pumpkins (lb.)	15,055	27,160	3,475	1,149
Tomatoes (lb.)	164,070	218,224	112,200	2,486
Eschallots (lb.)	10,534	11,443	6,759	2,206

In view of the difficulty that was anticipated in marketing the highly perishable tomato, production of this vegetable was actively discouraged in 1958. Even so, quantities of tomatoes had to be dumped, as they were in 1957. There were indications towards the end of the period that there were possibilities of finding markets for fresh fruit and vegetables in neighbouring islands, instead of in the usual markets of Trinidad and British Guiana, and that the use of air transport might make marketing less dependent on sea communications.

Towards the end of the period a Marketing Adviser was made available by the United States International Co-operation Administration, and he is now resident in the island.

Land Settlement

There are now three land settlements managed by the Government. In addition to the Otway Settlement which has been operating for many years, early in 1957 an estate (Galways) in the south of the island was taken on long lease by the Government and, after very considerable soil conservation work had been done, was sublet to peasants. In addition, towards the end of 1958 a cotton estate (Trants) on the windward side was bought by the Government under a C.D. & W. scheme and is now operated as a managed land settlement. The details of these settlements are:

	Acreage	*No. of tenants*
Otway . .	400	300
Galways . .	150	100
Trants . .	140	110

Extension Work

This side of the department's work received special emphasis during the period as a result of the purchase with C.D. & W. funds of a film projector. Film shows, followed by advice, instruction and explanation of the various agricultural development schemes have been given weekly in various districts in the island. They prove immensely popular and are an invaluable means of publicising and explaining Government's activities.

Considerable progress has been made in soil conservation work. Legislation was introduced during the period to ensure that owners and occupiers of agricultural land manage their land in such a manner as to prevent erosion and ruination of the soil. Further C.D. & W. funds were made available in 1958 to continue the

Digitized by Google

scheme, started in 1955, for the payment of a 50 per cent subsidy to farmers introducing soil conservation measures on their holdings.

The extension officers of the Department of Agriculture made a determined effort to increase public knowledge and interest in the use of fertilizer and trial plots were put down in various areas. Farmers are beginning to realise the value of fertilizers: the amount used has risen from 14 tons in 1956 to 30 tons in 1957 and 101 tons in 1958 (including 28 tons of banana fertilizers).

Another new development was the investigation of the possibility of harnessing for irrigation the water from the island's many perennial springs. A pilot operation carried out in the northern district under a C.D. & W. scheme proved very successful. At the close of the period a more ambitious project was being worked out.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

There was no shortage of locally produced meat and milk, but there was a constant demand for imported poultry and eggs. The number of animals recorded as slaughtered was as follows:

	1957	*1958*
Cattle . . .	330	349
Goats . . .	632	293
Sheep . . .	526	326
Pigs . . .	245	132

Hides and skins exported amounted to 137 dozen, valued at approximately $10,648.

In spite of the increase in locally slaughtered cattle, it has been possible, as a result of policies started many years ago, to permit a substantial and growing export of cattle to the neighbouring French islands. This export started in 1956 when 120 head were exported. In the period under review a further 401 head valued at $95,773 were exported.

During 1958, under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme to improve the quality of the stock on the island, 50 heifers of the Nelthrop variety were imported from St. Croix and the British Virgin Islands. The cattle are handed over to selected peasants who have to satisfy the Livestock Officer that they have enough fodder-grass planted to maintain the animals in good condition for breeding purposes. They remain the property of the Government and are returned after they have bred a calf, to the Livestock Officer, who arranges for their redistribution, thus in effect constituting a revolving herd of breeding stock. The Government maintained at its various centres stud animals for use by cattle-owners throughout the country.

FORESTRY

The Forest Officer was assisted by eight part-time rangers during 1957. The part-time rangers were replaced in 1958 by three full-time rangers. A Forestry Board was established in 1958, under the Forestry Ordinance, No. 21 of 1956, and was vested with responsibility for administering good forestry practices in the colony. The Conservator

Digitized by Google

of Forests, Windward Islands, visited Montserrat during the period under review, and his report on the preservation and development of forestry in the colony has been of considerable assistance to the Forestry Board. No firm figures can be quoted but it is estimated that 6,600 feet of commercial timber, as well as other timber, producing 200 bundles of shingles were cut in 1957, the value of which was estimated at $3,000. About the same quantities were cut in 1958. Some 2,714 feet of timber, mainly red cedar, valued at $852 were exported during each of the years under review.

As a result of the employment of full-time rangers, forest offences were reduced. There were six prosecutions in 1957 and 1958 compared with 20 during the previous two years.

FISHERIES

Under a Development and Welfare scheme approved in 1956 the Government purchased a small fishing-boat in 1957 to explore the fishing grounds in the area and to ascertain the possibilities of a small powered fishing-boat. The results have been most encouraging and a further scheme has been approved for the purchase of two larger boats. Catches from the one boat were sold for $4,800, substantially supplementing the supply of fresh fish and reducing the colony's dependence on imported preserved fish.

MINING

There are no known mineral deposits on the island which may be exploited.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

The Montserrat Company Limited continues to operate their small factory for the manufacture of edible oil, cotton-seed meal and cake used for stock feed and as fertilizer, and a small quantity of soap. It also manufactured a small amount of shingles from local wood.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

Primary Education

There are 16 primary schools in the colony. Two of these are small fee-paying private schools. There are 12 Government schools, one Roman Catholic (grant-aided) and one Seventh Day Adventist (unassisted) school. Attendances over the past five years have been as follows:

	Enrolment	*Average Attendance*	*Percentage*
1954 . .	3,365	3,025	90
1955 . .	3,278	2,915	89
1956 . .	3,313	2,981	90
1957 . .	3,304	2,977	90
1958 . .	3,329	2,956	89

Digitized by Google

Primary education is compulsory from 5 to 13 years and is free for all children between 5 and 15 years. The courses in the primary schools lead to the school-leaving certificate examination of the Department of Education. Increased attention is being given to the teaching of woodwork, handicraft and home economics since teachers have completed training in these subjects, and this does much to broaden the basis of the education and to maintain the interest of the children.

Staffing continued to present many problems and increasing attention was given during the period to the training of teachers. In 1958 the decision was reached, in consultation with other Leeward Island Governments, to build a Government teacher-training college in Antigua to replace Spring Gardens. Meanwhile teachers continued to undergo training at Erdiston College, Barbados, and at Spring Gardens, Antigua, one woman and four men successfully completing courses at these institutions. In addition two teachers completed courses in home economics in Jamaica and Puerto Rico, and at the end of 1958 three more teachers were undergoing training. In 1957 for the first time for many years a teachers' vacation course was organised by the Education Department. It proved to be very beneficial and a similar course was organised in 1958.

Secondary Education

There is one secondary school in the colony, situated in Plymouth. It is divided into two sections, a senior school and a grammar school. In the former, students receive a general education with a strong infusion of practical subjects. Pupils are admitted to this section from the age of 11 years, and pursue a course lasting four years. Pupils are specially selected for this section by means of a competitive examination and on the recommendation of a selection committee. No tuition fee is paid by pupils in this section. In the grammar school section the normal division into forms is maintained, and the age for admission is 10 years. Candidates are admitted after a competitive entrance examination. Pupils in this section pay both a tuition fee and a games fee.

The Principal is responsible for the internal organisation, management and discipline of the school. A secondary school committee advises on policy and management.

The enrolment at the school for the period under review was:

	1957	*1958*
Grammar school section . .	119	127
Senior school section . . .	81	63

Attendance is practically 100 per cent.

The senior school pupils pursue a course which includes the three R's, West Indian history and geography, a general introduction to English literature, the fundamentals of play-acting, and a practical grounding in music. In addition, there are courses in agriculture and woodwork for boys, and in home economics, needlework and straw

Digitized by Google

work for girls. From the second year, the pupils are taught Spanish, with special emphasis on the spoken language. The education provided for the grammar school section is of the academic type leading to the Cambridge Higher School Certificate Examinations. Chemistry is taught up to Higher School Certificate standard, and Spanish has been added to the Modern Language Group.

Of 24 scholarships held at the grammar school section at the end of 1958, 18 were provided by the Government, one was given anonymously and one was provided by each of the following: the Masonic Lodge, the Montserrat Company Ltd., the Old Students' Association, the Montserrat Progressive Society (N.Y.) and Bethel (Windward Appeal Committee).

Great difficulty was experienced during the period in maintaining teaching staff. There is provision for a staff, in addition to the Principal, of four graduates and eight non-graduate assistant teachers. At the end of 1958, there were in fact two graduates only on the teaching staff, one of whom was the Principal. Every possible measure is being taken to improve this situation, and two assistant masters are at present reading for degrees at the University College of the West Indies.

The school extra-curricular activities continue to thrive; apart from the normal sports and athletics, there is a literary and debating society, a dramatic society and a cadet corps.

General

Commendable attempts have been made to establish school libraries. Through the generous response of old students overseas, as well as by special efforts of the teachers and the Education Officer, a number of books have been obtained. Satisfactory use is being made of these libraries. Children who attend the town schools are allowed membership at the Public Library where there is a children's section.

The schools of the colony go on educational tours each term. These tours include visits to other schools, to public buildings and institutions and to places of natural and historical interest. The visits provide a wealth of useful knowledge, and also form the basis of many profitable discussions.

The School Dentist made regular monthly visits to schools for inspection, lecture, extraction and treatment of teeth, and there has been improvement in the dental health of the children. UNICEF milk powder has been most valuable in providing, along with yeast biscuits bought with local funds, a mid-morning snack to needy children.

Expenditure on education from the colony budget over the last four years was as follows:

	1955	*1956*	*1957*	*1958*
	$	$	$	$
Primary education . . .	89,777	115,942	116,379	122,796
Secondary education . . .	30,499	33,687	38,695	41,711
TOTAL EXPENDITURE .	120,276	149,629	155,074	164,507

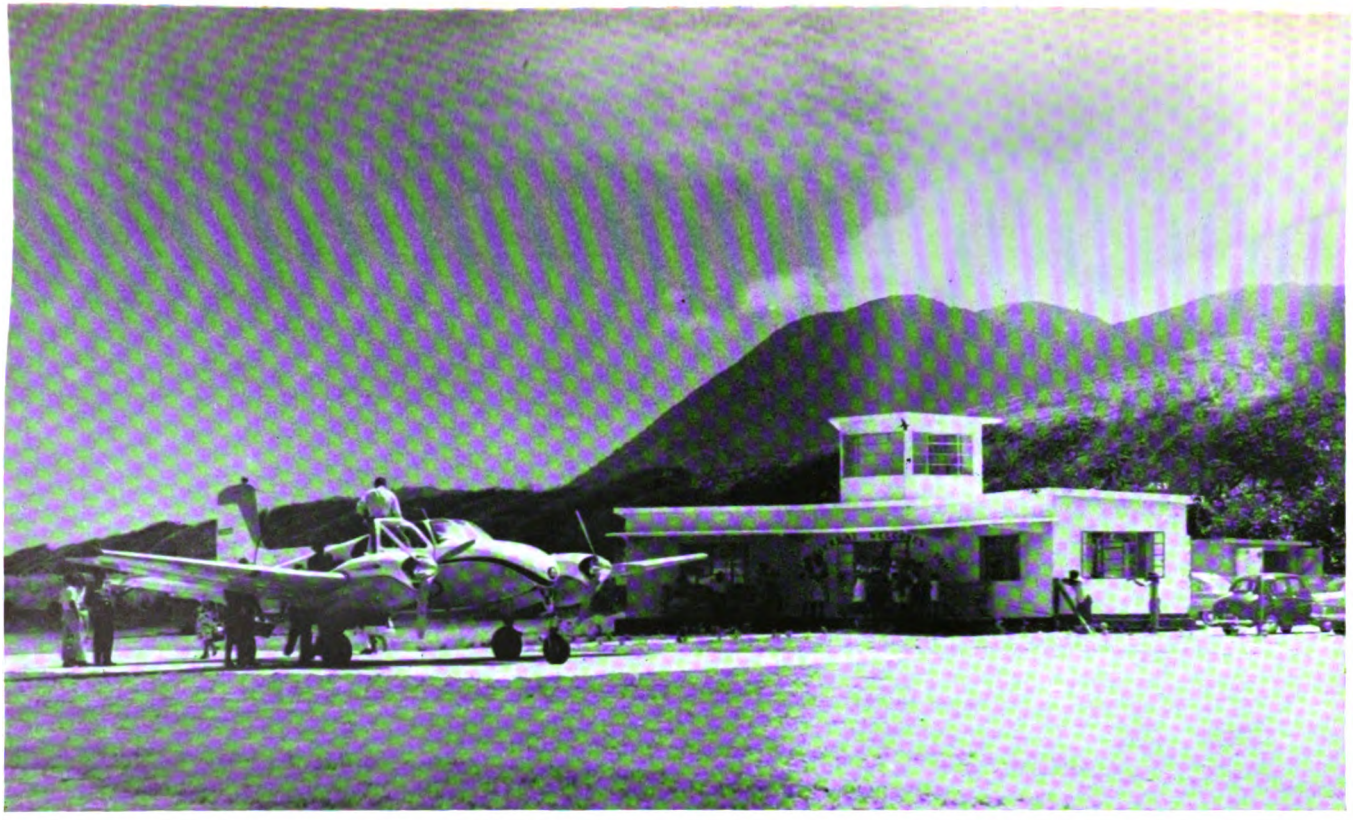
Digitized by Google

Guard of Honour for the Governor-General of the West Indies

Digitized by Google

A day's catch of the Government fishery boat

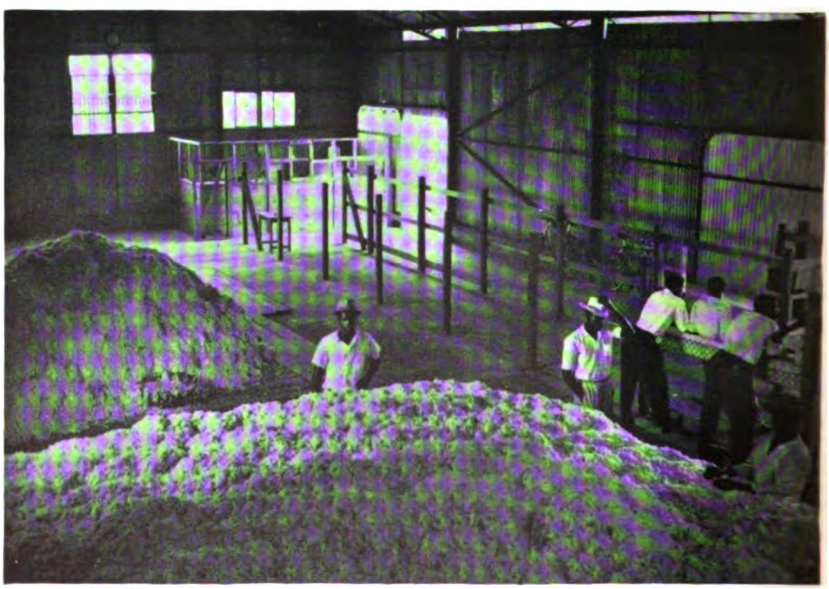
Digitized by Google



Blackburne Airfield

Digitized by Google

Soil conservation work



Inside the new Government cotton ginnery

Digitized by Google

Adult Education

Under the auspices of the Education Department and under the guidance of the trained home economics teachers of the Department, five Home Economics Clubs have been formed in different centres in the colony. The membership of these amounts to about 160 and great interest and enthusiasm are being shown.

A film projector, purchased during the period from a Colonial Development and Welfare grant has been in constant demand. Weekly film shows on agricultural topics are given in different centres by the Agricultural Department; in addition films of an educational nature are shown by the Department of Education.

The Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies has been able to give more time to the colony, and there has been much local interest in the lectures, films, musical evenings, discussions and debates organised by the college.

Library

The facilities of the Public Library have been increasingly used. At the end of 1958 the registered membership was 797 compared with 670 at the end of 1956. The total stock of books was 5,831 and the circulation 18,553 at the end of 1958, compared with 4,213 and 13,068 in 1956.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Asian influenza reached the colony during the latter part of 1957, and though there were approximately 600 cases, resulting in four deaths, most were of a mild nature. There was also an outbreak of whooping cough in 1958, 855 cases being reported, mostly among infants and young children.

The mass emigration of young adults to the United Kingdom during 1957 resulted in a large number of children being left in the care of grand-parents or other aged relatives who themselves were in need of care and attention. This brought about an increase in avoidable illness in these children, and a demand for beds in the hospital and infirmary. There was an improvement during 1958, as emigration decreased.

The routine welfare clinics for infants, pre-school children, expectant and nursing mothers, and the District Medical Officers' Clinics were continued throughout the period under review.

The colony had cause again to be grateful to UNICEF for the continued supply of skimmed milk powder, which has been distributed through the health centres and outposts. This has proved to be a valuable supplement to the general low-protein diet, and also an incentive to attend the clinics.

A campaign to eradicate the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito (yellow fever) began in October, 1957. The World Health Organisation provided an advisory consultant together with the materials and equipment. By the end of 1958 the whole of the island had been

Digitized by Google

covered and only one locality (in the town of Plymouth) was positive. The campaign was to continue through 1959.

A sanitarian consultant from the World Health Organisation visited the colony during 1957 to advise on the improvement of sanitation, water supplies and health education in schools and homes.

In December, 1957, a tuberculosis consultant from the World Health Organisation visited the colony and conducted an intensive tuberculin test survey, mostly among school children, although a number of pre-school children and adults were included.

The incidence of the principal groups of diseases, was as follows:

Epidemic, endemic and infectious diseases (including helminthic). In 1957, 855 cases were treated and in 1958, 1,544 cases were treated; cases of parasitic disease were the most numerous in 1957, and cases of whooping cough in 1958. There are three health centres and five health outposts at which clinics are held, and at which preventive and curative measures are available; the more severe cases are admitted to hospital.

General diseases. 188 cases were treated in 1957 and 141 in 1958 at the various clinics. Anaemia accounted for the greater number of these cases.

Yaws. There continues to be a steady decrease in the incidence of yaws. The following shows the number of cases treated at Government clinics over the last five years:

1954	*1955*	*1956*	*1957*	*1958*
293	108	71	20	9

Tuberculosis. Six cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were reported during 1957. All were admitted to the Glendon Hospital Isolation Ward for treatment. There were seven deaths from this disease during 1957, and four in 1958.

Diseases of the nervous and sense organs. In 1957, 627 cases were treated, and in 1958 525 cases, of which the majority were minor eye conditions. As there is now no observation ward at the Glendon Hospital, mental cases are admitted for observation at Her Majesty's Prison and, if certified, are transferred to the Mental Institution at Antigua.

Diseases of the circulation. There were 177 cases in 1957 and 178 cases in 1958.

Diseases of the respiratory system. There were 1,305 cases in 1957 and 1,021 cases in 1958.

Diseases of the digestive system. There were 1,036 cases in 1957 and 980 cases in 1958. The commonest complaint was gastro-enteritis, particularly in children under two years. The more severe cases were admitted to hospital for treatment.

Digitized by Google

Diseases of infancy. There were 84 cases in 1957 and 268 in 1958. Of these by far the largest number was due to malnutrition. Treatment was given at the various clinics and the more severe cases were admitted to hospital.

Medical, Public Health and Sanitary Services

The Senior Medical Officer administers the medical, public health, and sanitary services, including the Glendon Hospital (69 beds), three health centres and five health outposts at which general, tuberculosis, pre-natal, venereal disease and yaws clinics are held; a midwifery service (10 midwives on the establishment); a sanitary service for the inspection of premises, food, etc. and the control of insect-borne diseases; a public market; an infirmary for the poor and aged; medical care at the prison; port health supervision; dental inspection and attention at the primary schools.

The colony is divided into three medical districts. The Senior Medical Officer is also Medical Officer of District II, and there are now two other Government Medical Officers, one of whom is the Superintendent and Surgeon of the Glendon Hospital.

The establishment of the Glendon Hospital comprises the Medical Superintendent, a nursing sister (Matron), another nursing sister, one charge nurse, 6 staff nurses, 12 student nurses, one dispenser and a laboratory technician. As a result of emigration to the United Kingdom during 1957 and 1958 the medical and health service staff has been considerably reduced. In particular the post of the second nursing sister has not yet been filled. Training is undertaken locally under the supervision of the Matron.

Infant welfare, pre-natal care and the midwifery services were satisfactorily maintained throughout the period.

There are three areas of sanitary supervision covering the whole colony and three sanitary inspectors work in them under the Senior Medical Officer who is the Public Health Authority.

A statement of expenditure on the medical, public health and allied services is given below:

	1956	*1957*	*1958**
	$	$	$
Medical . . .	22,010	21,315	25,774
Public Health . .	27,913	39,016	44,978
Hospital . . .	70,293	82,477	81,059
Other . . .	27,973	31,310	34,420
	148,191	174,118	186,231

* Estimated.

HOUSING

One aided self-help housing scheme at St. Patricks, comprising 14 houses, was completed during the year. The benefits were so clearly seen that during the period there was no difficulty in starting two more, at Salem (15 houses) and Cork Hill (10 houses). Satisfactory

Digitized by Google

progress was made in this admittedly small-scale attempt to tackle the general housing problem of the colony.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The Public Assistance Committee administered the Government grant, supplemented by voluntary contributions, for providing weekly relief allowances to the aged, the poor and needy. The Government also maintained the infirmary where the aged and infirm who have no means of subsistence, or no one to care for them, are looked after. The local branch of the British Red Cross Society continued its valuable activities. A crippled orphan girl, whom there was no prospect of helping in any local institution, was sent to a home for incurables in England. This was made possible after the Red Cross had organised a special and successful public appeal, the proceeds of which, with assistance from public funds, were sufficient to pay the expenses for travel etc. The youth movements, i.e. Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Junior Red Cross and Church groups of young people reported satisfactory progress during the period under review.

There are no probation services in the colony, though during the period the urgent need for such services was recognised and a post was created in the 1959 budget. Meanwhile following an appeal to local well-wishers and to outside charity organisations sufficient money was raised to build a home for delinquent boys. As mentioned earlier, emigration has resulted in many young boys being left in the care of aged and unsuitable guardians and as a result many of them, without proper homes, take to the streets and, in a growing number of cases, to crime. The home is aimed to meet this situation.

Chapter 8: Legislation

DURING the period under review the more important ordinances enacted were:

Ordinance No. 1 of 1957 empowers the Governor-in-Council to make regulations for the management, control and supervision of aerodromes.

Distribution of German Property. Ordinance No. 3 of 1957 provides for the vesting in an Administrator of German Enemy Property of such German enemy property in the colony as may be in the hands of the Custodian of Enemy Property and for the distribution of the said property.

Workmen's Compensation. Ordinance No. 5 of 1957 provides for the payment of compensation to workmen for injuries suffered in the course of their employment.

Digitized by Google

Criminal Procedure. Ordinance No. 15 of 1957 makes provisions for—

(i) the attendance of witnesses at Criminal cases in the Supreme Court;
(ii) the arrangement and trial of insane persons; and
(iii) the custody of accused persons found to be insane.

Animals (*Control of Experiments*). Ordinance No. 4 of 1958 regulates and controls the performance of experiments on living animals.

Law Reform (*Miscellaneous Provisions*). Ordinance No. 5 of 1958 revises the law of the colony with respect to contributory negligence. It also makes provisions governing the liability of the owners of dogs for injury to persons, poultry and small stock.

Income Tax. Ordinance No. 7 of 1958, provides that non-resident British subjects and companies should have the same liability to income tax as other non-residents. It also empowers the Provost Marshal to levy upon the lands (in addition to the goods and chattels) of tax defaulters.

Fire Brigade. Ordinance No. 8 of 1958 provides for the establishment and operation of Fire Brigades in the Colony.

Ticket Duty. Ordinance No. 12 of 1958 imposes a duty on passenger tickets issued by transport companies for passages to places outside the Leeward Islands.

Agriculture. Ordinance No. 13 of 1958 provides for the establishment of an Agricultural Lands Authority and an Agricultural Lands Commissioner with power to control and direct owners and occupiers of agricultural land to manage their land in such a manner as to prevent erosion and ruination of the soil.

Motor Vehicles Insurance (*Third-Party Risks*). Ordinance No. 17 of 1958 provides for the protection of third parties against risks arising out of the use of motor vehicles on roads.

Montserrat Constitution (*Amendment*). Ordinance No. 18 of 1958 extends the life of the Legislative Council from three to five years.

Land Acquisition. Ordinance No. 20 of 1958 authorises the acquisition of land for public purposes. This replaces the legislation in respect of the Leeward Islands which was in force prior to the defederation of the Leeward Island Colonies.

The Development (*Ice and Cold Storage*) *Loan Amendment*. Ordinance No. 24 of 1958 increases the authorised loan of $96,000 under the Principal Ordinance to $113,300 for financing improvements to the Ice and Cold Storage facilities in the Colony.

Exchange Control. Ordinance No. 28 of 1958 confers certain powers and imposes duties and restrictions in relation to gold, currency payments, securities, debts, and the import, export,

Digitized by Google

transfer and settlement of property. This replaces the Defence (Finance) Regulations, 1939, which expired on the 10th December, 1958.

External Trade. Ordinance No. 29 of 1958 provides for the regulation of imports to and exports from the Colony by means of the licensing system which obtained under the Defence (Import and Export Restriction) Regulations, 1943, which expired on the 10th December, 1958.

Distribution and Price of Goods. Ordinance No. 30 of 1958 provides for the fixing of maximum prices at which foodstuffs and commodities essential to the well-being of the community shall be sold and for ensuring their equitable distribution in time of need. Previous authority existed under the Supplies and Services (Transitional Powers) Act, 1945 (Imperial) as continued in force by the Supplies and Services (Continuance) Order, 1957 (Imperial) which were repealed on the 10th December, 1958.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

THE Courts of Law in the colony are:

(i) the Federal Supreme Court;

(ii) The Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands, which sits twice a year in the Montserrat Circuit to hold criminal assizes and to try civil cases;

(iii) The Court of Summary Jurisdiction (presided over by a Judge of the Supreme Court), which provides a relatively cheap and summary procedure for claims not exceeding fifty pounds. The sitting of the Court usually takes place immediately after the Circuit Court cases;

(iv) The Magistrate's Court, Montserrat, which constitutes the Magisterial District " I " of the Leeward Islands;

(v) The Juvenile Court which sits once a month;

(vi) The Coroner's Court.

Appeals from the Magistrate are heard by the Judge in either the Supreme Court or the Summary Court, whichever first holds a sitting after the expiration of fifteen days from the day on which the Magistrate's decision was given. A further appeal by the party aggrieved by the order of the Judge may be taken to the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands Court of Appeal.

Appeals from the judgments of the summary Court and from convictions in the Supreme Court in the criminal circuit as well as from certain of its judgments and orders in civil cases and matters are also heard by the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands Court

Digitized by Google

of Appeal. Measures have recently been initiated whereby jurisdiction to hear appeals from the Supreme Court in criminal matters will be conferred on the Federal Supreme Court. The higher courts of appeal are the Federal Supreme Court which has assumed the jurisdiction of the West Indian Court of Appeal, and Her Majesty's Privy Council.

The Juvenile Court was established in 1949. The District Magistrate and two assessors, one of whom is a lady, constitute this Court. Its procedure is prescribed by the Juveniles Court Procedure Rules, 1949 (Leeward Islands S.R. & O. No. 17 of 1949). The Juvenile Act, 1949, constitutes the code which regulates the legal protection and treatment of Juveniles.

Supreme Court. On the criminal side preliminary enquiries into indictable cases numbered 22 in 1957 and 14 in 1958, as against 27 in 1956. The results of the cases were as follows:

	1956	*1957*	*1958*
Acquitted	9	4	7
Nolle Prosequi	4	4	3
Convicted			
(*a*) Imprisoned	9	20	3
(*b*) Bound over or put on probation	4	4	3

On the civil side of the Supreme Court, 1 case was heard in 1957, and 4 in 1958. In the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, 9 cases were heard in 1957, and 11 in 1958.

Magistrate's Court, Plymouth and Cudjoe Head. A total of 1,233 adjudications were made in 1957, and 1,098 in 1958. In the Juvenile Court, 39 adjudications were made in 1957 and 44 in 1958. Offences against the person continued to predominate as the following table shows:

	1957		*1958*	
	Adult	*Juvenile*	*Adult*	*Juvenile*
Homicide	—	—	1	—
Other offences against the person act	267	15	312	11
Praedial larceny	27	2	30	7
Malicious injuries to property	30	6	67	4
Other offences against property	42	7	17	10
Offences against revenue, road and municipal Laws	138	—	161	10
Miscellaneous minor offences	599	14	515	8
	1,103	44	1,103	50

138 civil processes were filed in 1957 and 138 in 1958.

POLICE

The Police Force constitutes "C" Division of the Leeward Islands Police Force, under the command of an Assistant Superintendent of Police. The establishment of the Division was 33 all ranks and at the end of 1958 the strength was one short of this.

Digitized by Google

In 1957, the Traffic Department issued 265 driving licences and in 1958, 283. This compared with 230 in 1956. The following table shows prosecutions instituted for breach of the Traffic Ordinance and Regulations, and traffic accidents for the last five years:

	1954	*1955*	*1956*	*1957*	*1958*
No. of prosecutions	97	67	99	79	99
No. of convictions	10	65	91	67	96
No. of traffic accidents	21	39	24	76	131
No. of persons injured	nil	20	15	16	16
No. of persons killed	nil	1	3	1	nil

The Police erected traffic signs, for the first time, all over the island in 1957, and also organised lectures to motor drivers on road safety.

In 1958 a photographic section was organised and, on the return of a police corporal from a course of training in criminal records, a start was made in the establishment of better records, with the use of both photographs and fingerprints. The total number of fingerprints on record at the end of the period was 10.

Crime. The following figures show the record of the force in the matter of crime detection and prosecutions:

	1956	*1957*	*1958*
True reports of crimes	348	258	242
Closed undetected	150	88	50
Charges brought	182	154	175
Under enquiry at the end of year	16	16	17
Found guilty	140	120	141
Acquitted	15	34	34
Pending trial at the end of year	8	16	17

The incidence of the main types of crime is shown by the following:

	1956	*1957*	*1958*
Breaking	49	24	26
Wounding and assault	148	152	113
Praedial larceny	38	27	30
Traffic offences	193	177	144
Larceny	112	81	50

During the strike of estate workers at the close of 1957, there was a minor outbreak of lawlessness in outlying country districts and it was necessary to seek assistance from the division in Antigua to permit night patrolling of the affected areas. This patrolling effectively curbed the lawlessness.

PRISONS

The prison has two main blocks of buildings with cell accommodation for 30 males and six females. The Assistant Superintendent of Police is the Officer in Charge of Prison Discipline and the staff comprises one keeper, eight warders and a matron.

In 1957, six charges were brought against subordinate prison officers. In one case the officer was fined, four were dismissed and the

Digitized by Google

other was severely reprimanded. During 1958 five charges were brought against subordinate officers. In four cases the officer was fined and one reprimanded.

Mr. D. B. St. Aubyn, Commissioner of Prisons, Trinidad and Tobago, visited the prison during 1958 and made recommendations as to the improvement of the prison.

In 1957 the number of persons admitted to prison was 77 of whom 52 had previous convictions. In 1958, the numbers were 82 and 33 respectively. Of those convicted in 1957, 67 were males and 10 females, while in 1958 the numbers were 76 males and 6 females. The daily average population was 23·52 in 1957, and 24·02 in 1958.

As customary, the male prisoners were employed in carpentry, tailoring, shoe-repairing, baking, breaking stones and wood cutting, while females were engaged in washing, sewing, and cleaning.

In 1957, there were 140 offences committed by prisoners against Prison Regulations whilst in 1958 there were 117. They were dealt with as follows:

	1957	*1958*
Diet and confinement to cell . . .	107	67
Loss of marks	3	23
Reprimanded	30	27
	140	117

In 1957, 16 males and 1 female were admitted to the hospital and in 1958 the numbers were 10 and 3 respectively. On the whole the general health of prisoners remained satisfactory.

There was one escape during 1957 and none in 1958.

All prisoners with sentences exceeding one month now earn remission at the rate of one third of their sentence, provided that the remission does not reduce the period to less than 31 days. Formerly the remission was one-quarter of the sentence for males and one-third for females. The Prisoners' Aid Board provides help for discharged prisoners who serve sentences of less than six months, should it be deemed necessary. Discharged prisoners who have been sentenced for six months and over are allowed 24 cents per week for the time served.

The average annual cost of each prisoner in 1957 was $304 and the average cost of feeding each was $242. In 1958 the amounts were $370 and $260 respectively.

Digitized by Google

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

Electricity

The Electricity Department of the Government maintained at a high standard of efficiency a 24-hour service in Plymouth throughout the period. The supply is generated by three 40 kW. generators. A new 80 kW. generator arrived during 1958, but at the end of the year had not been installed. The service was extended during 1958, to Kinsale, a suburb of Plymouth, under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme. The utility is growing rapidly, within the limitations set by the size of the community which it serves; the number of consumers rose from 260 at the end of 1957 to 320 at the end of 1958.

During 1958, the cold storage plant, under the control of the Electricity Department, was modernised and it is now powered by electricity. The work was financed by a loan, part of which was locally raised.

Water Services

These have been maintained in good condition generally, and in many instances have been substantially improved by the replacement of old pipe lines by new and larger pipes. In the north, in particular, work was started at the end of 1958 on a large project, financed by a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme, to augment the supply to a large area of the country. Extensive repair was also carried out to the windmill pump supplying water to the St. Georges Hill area.

Public Works

A large programme of repair and maintenance work on Government buildings was carried out during the period. New buildings comprised the new Government ginnery, three new houses for agricultural instructors, and two new hospital buildings financed by Development and Welfare grants; an extensive programme of construction of new latrines and bath-houses, was also completed. Major work, comprising clearing silt and building retaining walls, was carried out in two of the colony's guts, Fort Gut and Aymers Gut.

Fire Services

A volunteer fire brigade, which comprises one fully-trained officer and 20 volunteers was maintained at a high state of efficiency throughout the period.

Digitized by Google

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

PLYMOUTH is the only seaport of entry and clearance for passengers and freight. An open roadstead, the port has a large wooden pier which is now in urgent need of replacement. During the period a firm of consulting engineers examined the problem and it is hoped that the work will soon be undertaken by a firm of contractors.

The s.s. *West Indian* which in 1957 operated an inter-island scheduled passenger and freight service concluded its charter to the West Indian Governments, and the service was replaced in March, 1958 by the operation of two smaller vessels, the *Oluf Sven* and *Herman Langreder*, which were chartered by and subsidised by the Federal Government.

A line which used to run regular scheduled services between Canada and the islands, the Canadian National Steamships, withdrew its ships from service on 21st June, 1957. Remaining steamer communications are both irregular and inadequate.

A small motor vessel, owned and registered in Montserrat, M.V. *Caribbee*, operated a valuable and regular service between the Leeward Islands, Dominica and Barbados, until most unfortunately she was lost in a storm off Dominica on 29th August, 1958.

During 1957, 195 steamers and 208 motor vessels and sailing craft entered and cleared from Plymouth. The corresponding figures in 1958 were 209 and 257.

CIVIL AVIATION

The inadequacy of sea communications was partly mitigated by the rapid development during the period of air communications. Leeward Islands Air Transport operated a regular scheduled service from Blackburne airfield on the windward coast of the island. By the end of 1958 the service included six weekly scheduled flights to Antigua as well as flights to St. Kitts, Puerto Rico, Dominica and Barbados. Demand for the service increased so rapidly that at the end of the period the operating company had aircraft with a total passenger capacity of 16 while at the beginning of 1957 the capacity was only 4.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The main roads are asphalted and total 40 miles. Secondary roads, which total some 32 miles are unsurfaced, though during the period a steady programme of concreting or colas-surfacing the worst sections was undertaken. As a result of this programme, which is continuing, stretches of eight different roads were improved and this

Digitized by Google

should reduce substantially the recurrent costs of keeping the roads passable. The bridge on the road to the airfield at Trants was reconstructed.

The number of vehicles licensed was as follows:

	1956	*1957*	*1958*
Motor cars	108	125	128
Buses and trucks . . .	33	40	36
Motor cycles	9	20	18
Pedal cycles	119	156	134

POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The General Post Office is located in Plymouth and there are seven sub-post offices throughout the island. There is a letter-box service supplemented by house-to-house delivery in Plymouth. Country mails are delivered at the sub-post offices by itinerant postmen, and people call for their letters.

The telephone system comprises a two-line metallic type with one central exchange. The programme of reconditioning the telephone lines to the country was continued and during the period approximately 30 miles of new galvanised line wire were put up and a number of telephone poles were replaced. A new and larger switchboard was installed and put into operation early in 1958.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

Press

Only one newspaper, *The Observer*, a weekly English language paper is now issued in the colony. It had an estimated circulation of 400 weekly at the end of 1958.

Broadcasting

The new studio built from a grant from Development and Welfare funds was completed in 1957, and in September of that year the Committee of Radio Montserrat, which was reconstituted, resumed broadcasting from the new studio. Programmes amounting to 14 hours per week were organised, the work being done entirely by volunteers. The transmissions were of a high standard technically and the programmes proved very popular, both in Montserrat and in neighbouring islands.

Government Information Service

There is no established information service administered by the Government. The public was kept informed of matters of public interest by use of the press and the new broadcasting station.

Digitized by Google

Chapter 13: Local Forces

THE local forces consist of the Defence Force and the Police Force. The Defence Force is a part-time locally recruited unit of approximately one Infantry Platoon in strength, trained and equipped for internal security. Training was given in foot and arms drill, ceremonial drill, field craft, tactical exercises and range practices. Annual camps were held in 1957 and 1958. In the latter year all plans were made for a joint camp, to be held in Antigua, of the Defence Forces of the three colonies, Antigua, St. Kitts, Montserrat. These plans were unfortunately abandoned at the last moment owing to the threat of a hurricane. In the event, camp was held in the colony, but the Force was able to take advantage of the services for training of a sergeant from the British Battalion stationed in the Caribbean.

Expenditure on the Defence Force over the last four years was as follows:

	$
1955	3,510
1956	2,996
1957	4,341
1958 (estimated) . .	6,000

The Police Force, which constitutes "C" Division of the Leeward Islands Police, is described in Chapter 9. The Force is charged with preservation of peace, the prevention and detection of crime, and other infractions of the law.

Digitized by Google

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography

MONTSERRAT lies in 16° 45′ North Latitude and 60° 15′ West Longitude, 27 miles south-west of Antigua and some 40 miles north-west of Guadeloupe. It resembles a leg of ham in shape and has a maximum length of 11 miles and a maximum breadth of seven. Its area is 32½ square miles. The island is of volcanic origin and has three main mountain ridges—Silver Hill in the north (1,287 ft.), Central Hill in the middle of the island (2,499 ft.) and the Soufrière Hills in the south (3,002 ft.).

The climate of the island is tropical and healthy, the mean maximum temperature being 86°F. and the mean minimum temperature 73°F. The annual average rainfall is about 55 inches, the range being from 40 to 70 inches. The central part of the west coast receives more rain than the east coast. The north and south are dry. The incidence of rain is extremely variable, but the rainiest months are usually from September to November and the dry season usually from December to June. Montserrat is windswept for the greater part of the year.

For five months during 1958 a team of surveyors from the Directorate of Oversea Surveys in the United Kingdom, conducted a cadastral survey of the island. It was expected that the maps produced by this survey would be available during 1959.

Chapter 2: History

THE island was discovered by Columbus on his second voyage to the New World in 1493. It was colonised in 1632 when a number of Irishmen who formed a part of Thomas Warner's company came across from the neighbouring island of St. Christopher (St. Kitts) and made their homes there. It was captured by the French in 1664, restored to England in 1668, capitulated to the French again in 1782, and was finally ceded to Britain in the year 1783.

Digitized by Google

Chapter 3: Administration

THE Leeward Islands Federation came to an end by Imperial Act of Parliament on the 1st July, 1956, when Montserrat and the other Presidencies of the Leeward Islands became separate colonies under the same Governor. The Montserrat Legislative Council consists of the Administrator as President, two official members, two nominated members and five elected members. One of the elected members is also Deputy-President of the Council. There is adult suffrage under the provisions of the Constitution and Elections Ordinance, 1952.

The Executive Council consists of the Administrator (who becomes an *ex officio* member when the Governor is present at a meeting), two official members, one nominated member and two elected members. The "Membership system" has been introduced in order to associate the elected members more closely with the Administration.

Note: The above describes the situation as it was in 1957 and 1958. There were important constitutional changes on 1st January, 1960 including the abolition of the post of Governor of the Leeward Islands, the introduction of the ministerial system and the appointment of a Chief Minister, and some alterations in the composition of the Executive and Legislative Councils.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

THE inspection of weights and measures was duly carried out as required under section 13(1) of the Weights and Measures Act (Cap. 154). During 1957 and 1958, respectively, 132 and 124 weights and measures were tested by an authorised police officer. The standard measures recognised in the Colony are as follows:

(*a*) Standard of length: the imperial yard.
(*b*) Standard of weight: the imperial pound.
(*c*) Standard of capacity: the imperial gallon.

Chapter 5: Reading List

GENERAL

ASPINALL, Sir A. *Pocket guide to the West Indies.* Methuen, 1954.
BARCLAYS BANK, D.C.O. *Leeward Islands: an economic survey.* 1958.
LAWRENCE, George E. *Thomas O'Garra: a West Indian local preacher.* Epworth Press, 1956.
The West Indies and Caribbean Year Book 1960. Thomas Skinner, 1959.
WATKINS, F. H. *Handbook of the Leeward Islands.* West India Committee, 1924.

Digitized by Google

DESCRIPTIVE

ASPINALL, Sir A. *A Wayfarer in the West Indies*. West India Committee, 1928.

FROUDE, J. A. *The English in the West Indies*. Longman Green, 1888.

HISTORICAL

BURNS, Sir ALAN, *History of the British West Indies*. Allen and Unwin, 1954.

EDWARDS, BRYAN, *History of British colonies in the West Indies*. John Stockdale, 1793.

PARRY, J. H. and SHERLOCK, P. M. *A short history of West Indies*. Macmillan, 1956.

SOUTHEY, Captain THOMAS. *Chronological history of the West Indies*, Longman, Rees, Orme Brown and Green, 1827.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

Obtainable, if in print, from Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

An economic survey of the colonial territories, 1951. Vol. IV. West Indian and American territories, Col. No. 281–4, 1953.

Movement of persons within a British Caribbean Federation. Report of the Conference, Port of Spain, March 1955. Col. No. 315, 1955.

Report by the Conference on British Caribbean Federation, London, February 1956. Cmd. 9733, 1956.

Report of the British Caribbean Federal Capital Commission. Col. No. 328, 1956.

Fiscal survey of the British Caribbean, by A. R. Prest. Colonial Research Studies, No. 23, 1957.

Report on roads and road problems in South East Asia and the Caribbean, by F. H. P. Williams, Colonial Research Publication No. 18, 1957.

Development and welfare in the West Indies 1957. Col. No. 337, 1958.

Report of the Leeward and Windward Islands Constitutional Conference, London, June 1959. Cmnd. 804, 1959.

Obtainable from the Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations, 4 Millbank, London, S.W.1.

Antigua, Montserrat and Virgin Islands Gazette. Antigua Government Printing Office, Weekly.

Digitized by Google

APPENDIX I

MEMBER OF FEDERAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. W. H. Bramble, M.P.
Alternate Member, Mr. J. N. Edwards.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Administrator, Mr. A. F. Dawkins, President.
Mr. C. S. Husbands, Acting Crown Attorney.
Mr. T. E. A. Perkins, Treasurer.
Mr. J. C. L. Wall, O.B.E., Member for Trade and Production.
Mr. B. W. Edwards, Member for Social Services and Public Works.
Mr. J. W. R. Perkins, Second Nominated Member.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The Administrator, Mr. A. F. Dawkins, President.
Mr. T. E. A. Perkins, Treasurer (Official).
Mr. C. S. Husbands, Acting Crown Attorney (Official).
Mr. J. C. L. Wall, Deputy President and First Elected Member for the Southern District.
Mr. B. W. Edwards, Elected Member for the Windward District.
Mr. J. W. R. Perkins, Second Nominated Member.
Mr. A. W. Griffin, O.B.E., First Nominated Member.
Mr. M. E. Walkinshaw, Elected Member for the Central District.
Mr. H. H. Lee, Elected Member for the Northern District.
Mr. M. Dyer, Second Elected Member for the Southern District.

(79700)

Digitized by Google

APPENDIX II

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES INITIATED OR IN PROGRESS DURING THE PERIOD FROM THE 1ST JANUARY, 1957 TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1958

Scheme No.	*Title*	*Amount Spent*		*Remarks*
		$	£ (nearest)	
D1669	Senior Secondary School	102,643·20	21,384	In progress
D2304	Aeronautical Telecommunication, Olveston Airfield	4,012·80	836	In progress
D2399	Electricity . . .	110,400·00	23,000	Completed in 1958
D2532	Water Supply . .	55,646·40	11,593	Completed in 1958
D2535	Soil Conservation . .	18,057·60	3,762	In progress
D2536	Fodder Grass Subsidy .	739·20	154	In progress
D2566	Training at Erdiston College	6,451·20	1,344	In progress
D2577	Road Construction .	91,939·20	19,154	In progress
D2665	Road Superintendent .	11,587·20	2,414	In progress
D2591	Trants Airfield . .	50,390·40	10,498	In progress
D2631	Land Clearing Equipment	82,934·40	17,278	Completed in 1958
D2658 (4)	Training in Radiography	2,544·00	530	Completed in 1958
D2658 (9)	Public Health Training .	1,320·00	275	Completed in 1957
D2717 (8)	Minor Amenities . .	576·00	120	Completed in 1958
D2855	Marketing Officer . .	4,708·80	981	Completed in 1958
D2871	Housing . . .	20,592·00	4,290	Completed in 1958
D2890 (9)	Vocational Training in Puerto Rico	576·00	120	Completed in 1958
D2978	Livestock Development .	14,160·00	2,950	Completed in 1958
D2651 (15)	Banana Cultivation .	336·00	70	Completed in 1958
D2651 (22)	Visit of Roads Engineer .	427·20	89	Completed in 1958
D2651 (23)	Visit of Soil Erosion Expert	297·60	62	Completed in 1958
D2651 (24)	Visit of Geologist . .	360·00	75	Completed in 1958
D2651 (28)	Visit of Conservator of Forests	403·20	84	Completed in 1958
D2658 (81)	Training in Customs and Excise	974·40	203	Completed in 1958
D2658 (128)	Training in Fire Fighting	403·20	84	Completed in 1958
D2658 (157)	Training in Postal Administration	624·00	130	Completed in 1958
D2658 (158)	Training in Public Administration	988·80	206	Completed in 1958

Digitized by Google

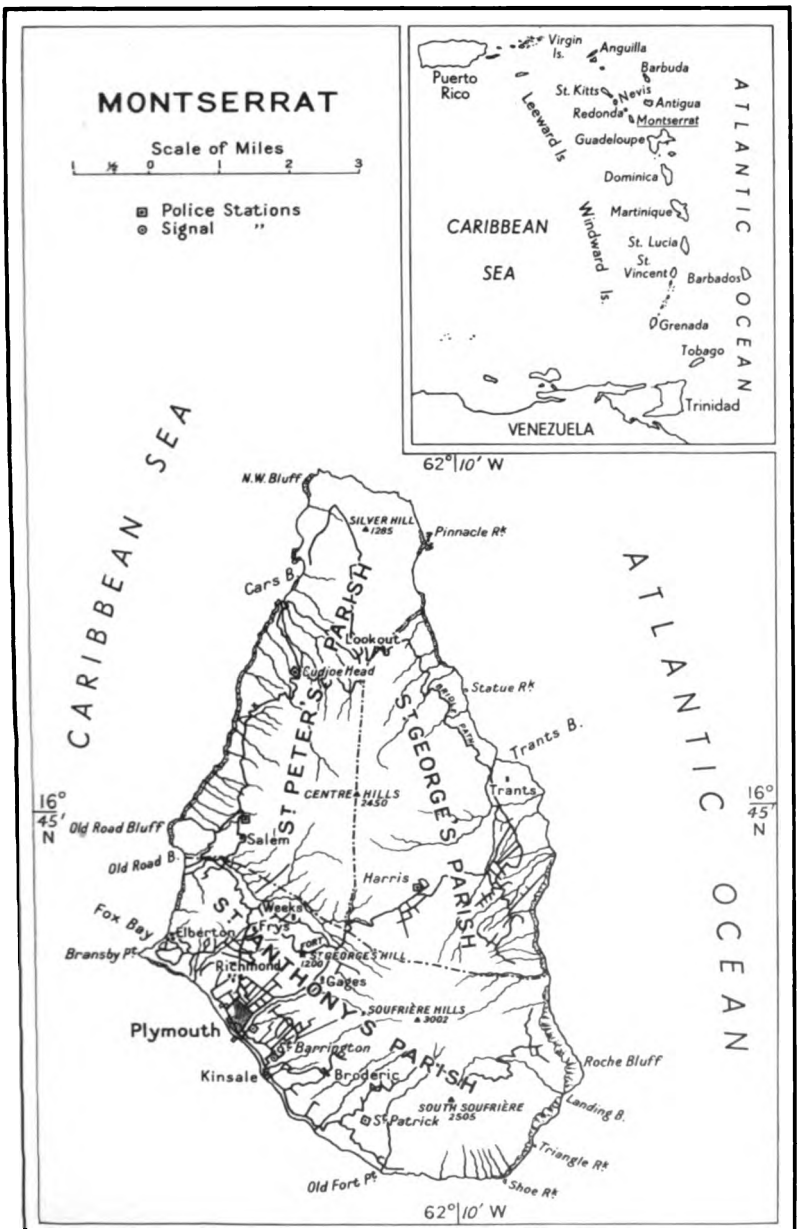
Scheme No.	*Title*	*Amount Spent*		*Remarks*
		$	£ (nearest)	
D2658 (178)	Training in Agriculture .	1,190·40	248	In progress
D2658 (195)	Training in B.C.G. Work	556·80	116	Completed in 1958
D2658 (201)	Training in Home Economics	480·00	100	Completed in 1958
D2659 (4)	Training in Science at U.C.W.I.	494·40	103	In progress
D2659 (26)	Training in Home Economics	2,203·20	459	In progress
D2717 (33)	Minor Amenities . .	2,880·00	600	Completed in 1958
D2726	Training of Teachers .	1,972·80	411	Completed in 1957
D2833	B.B.C. Transcription Service	91·20	19	In progress
D2925	Navigation Lights, Plymouth	4,084·80	851	In progress
D2961	Construction of Reservoir	43,200·00	2,637	In progress
D2963	Film Projector and Generator	2,404·80	501	Completed in 1958
D2964	Equipment of Health Centres at Plymouth and Molyneaux	2,505·60	522	Completed in 1958
D3018	Aedes Aegypti Eradication Campaign	10,041·60	2,092	In progress
D3025	Training of Teachers .	2,544·00	530	Completed in 1958
D3026	Control of Storm Waters	134·40	28	In progress
D3034	Fisheries Development .	16,305·60	3,397	In progress
D3052	Oiling of Roads . .	25,406·40	5,293	In progress
D3174	Kinsale Electricity Supply	9,854·40	2,053	In progress
D3217	Improvement to Glendon Hospital	15,494·40	3,228	In progress
D3234	Housing (Salem) . .	9,739·20	2,029	In progress
D3252	Equipment for Mechanical Cultivation	10,315·20	2,149	In progress
D3262	Housing . . .	4,800·00	1,000	In progress
D3270	Cotton Store and Ginnery	40,176·00	8,370	In progress
D3279 (2)	Vocational Training in Puerto Rico	105·60	22	Completed in 1958
D3279 (15)	Vocational Training in Puerto Rico	105·60	22	Completed in 1958
D3279 (24)	Vocational Training in Puerto Rico	67·20	14	Completed in 1958
D3320	Visit of Farmers to St. Vincent	1,560·00	325	Completed in 1958
D3321	Water Supply Northern District	12,811·20	2,669	In progress
D3325	Houses etc., for Agricultural Instructors	10,800·00	2,250	In progress
D3326	Construction of Workshop and Shed	748·80	156	In progress
D3330	Irrigation . . .	441·60	92	In progress
D3331	Banana Industry . .	30,595·20	6,374	In progress
D3341	Muscovada Sugar Works	974·40	203	In progress

Digitized by Google

Scheme No.	*Title*	*Amount Spent*		*Remarks*
		$	£ (nearest)	
D3346	Grapefruit Nursery .	417·60	87	In progress
D3419	New Schools at Brades and Kinsale	480·00	100	In progress
D3429	Purchase of Trants Estate	50,400·00	10,500	Completed in 1958
D3430	Purchase of Mechanical Equipment	4,800·00	1,000	In progress
D3445	Training in Nursing and Midwifery	220·80	46	In progress
D3446 (46)	Training in Agriculture .	307·20	64	In progress
D3446 (51)	Training of Public Works Officer	24·00	5	Completed in 1958
D3534	Housing (Cork Hill) .	427·20	89	In progress

(79700) Wt. 4144. K. 9 6/60 Hw.

Digitized by Google



Drawn by Directorate of Overseas Surveys 1957 D.O.S. 911

Printed by No. 1 SPC, RE, 1957.
4,000/8/57

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Other Publications in the Series

ANNUAL REPORTS

BASUTOLAND
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE
BR. GUIANA
BR. HONDURAS
BRUNEI
CYPRUS
FIJI
GIBRALTAR
HONG KONG
JAMAICA
KENYA
MAURITIUS
NIGERIA
N. BORNEO
N. RHODESIA
NYASALAND
SARAWAK
SIERRA LEONE
SINGAPORE
SWAZILAND
TRINIDAD
UGANDA

BIENNIAL REPORTS

ADEN
ANTIGUA
BAHAMAS
BARBADOS
BERMUDA
BR. SOLOMON IS.
BR. VIRGIN IS.
CAYMAN IS.
DOMINICA
FALKLAND IS.
GAMBIA
GILBERT AND ELLICE IS.
GRENADA
MONTSERRAT
NEW HEBRIDES
ST. KITTS-NEVIS -ANGUILLA
ST. HELENA
ST. LUCIA
ST. VINCENT
SEYCHELLES
SOMALILAND
TONGA
TURKS AND CAICOS IS.
ZANZIBAR

A standing order for selected Reports or for the complete series will be accepted by any one of the Bookshops of H.M. Stationery Office at the addresses overleaf. A deposit of £9 (nine pounds) should accompany standing orders for the complete series.

Orders may also be placed through any bookseller

Digitized by Google

© *Crown copyright 1960*

Published for the Colonial Office by
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased from
York House, Kingsway, London w.c.2
423 Oxford Street, London w.1
13A Castle Street, Edinburgh 2
109 St. Mary Street, Cardiff
39 King Street, Manchester 2
Tower Lane, Bristol 1
2 Edmund Street, Birmingham 3
80 Chichester Street, Belfast 1
or through any bookseller

Printed in England

S.O. Code No. 58-1-23-58

Digitized by Google

G972.97
M769m
Please do not trim
WDTC for folding plates
THE UNIVERSITY
OF TEXAS
AUG 30 1963
LIBRARY

Montserrat

1959 and 1960

9-20-63

LONDON

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

PRICE 3*s.* 6*d.* NET

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

572.9
M772

MONTSERRAT

Report for the years 1959 and 1960

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1963

Digitized by Google

CONTENTS

PART I

		page
	General Review	3

PART II

Chapter	1	Population	5
	2	Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation .	5
	3	Public Finance and Taxation	9
	4	Currency and Banking	11
	5	Commerce	11
	6	Production	12
	7	Social Services	15
	8	Legislation	20
	9	Justice, Police and Prisons	21
	10	Public Utilities and Public Works . . .	24
	11	Communications	25
	12	Press, Broadcasting, and Information Services	26
	13	Local Forces	27

PART III

Chapter	1	Geography	28
	2	History	28
	3	Administration	28
	4	Weights and Measures	29
	5	Reading List	29

APPENDIX : Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, 1960 31

A map will be found facing the last page

Digitized by Google

PART I

General Review

Constitutional

There were important constitutional changes on 1st January 1960. The post of Governor of the Leeward Islands was abolished (many of his powers passing to the Administrator) and the ministerial system of government introduced in the colony. There were also some changes in the composition of the Executive and the Legislative Councils. (See Report of the Leeward and Windward Islands Conference, 1959. H.M.S.O. Cmnd. 804.)

Economic

The economy of the island is agricultural and the chief crop continues to be sea island cotton.

It has come to be realised, however, that so long as the country's economy is founded on one crop, there can be no certainty or stability in economic development. Strenuous efforts have, therefore, been made during the period under review to broaden the basis of the economy: steps were taken to develop a banana industry and the livestock industry and to develop cane-growing. The only traditional secondary export crop, vegetables, was very severely hampered by shipping difficulties. Towards the end of the period there were signs that, by fully exploiting markets nearer at hand and by the use of air transport, these difficulties might be overcome. 1959 showed record trade figures, but the precariousness of trade in these commodities is shown by the substantial fall in 1960.

External Communications

The opening of Blackburne Airfield in 1956 has had an advantageous effect on the island's economy and life. The only air operating company, Leeward Islands Air Transport, has expanded its services to cope with the demand which is much greater than was anticipated. Visitors to the island are now able to plan their visits, both into and out of the island.

Digitized by Google

Development and Welfare Schemes

For the period 1960–64 a further Colonial Development and Welfare allocation of £200,000 was made. The 1960–64 Development Plan includes soil conservation, improvement and expansion of the livestock industry, land clearing, vegetable production and marketing, banana and sugarcane cultivation, fisheries development, forestry, co-operative development, public works (road construction, for example) and social services (health and hospital improvement, sanitation, housing and water supplies).

Important Visits

Important visitors to the colony during the period under review included Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal; Lord Hailes, Governor-General of The West Indies, and Lady Hailes; Sir Grantley Adams, Prime Minister of The West Indies, and Lady Adams; Mr. W. Andrew Rose, Federal Minister of Communications and Works; Mr. E. Paget, Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford; Mr. G. R. Robson of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad; Professor L. R. Wager, F.R.S., Professor of Geology, Oxford University; and Mr. F. Ricketts, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Administration

Mr. D. A. Wiles, O.B.E., of Barbados, was appointed Administrator of Montserrat in March 1960, succeeding Mr. A. F. Dawkins on his return to the Sierra Leone Public Service.

Digitized by Google

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE population of the island was 12,108 at the 1960 census.

Births and deaths in 1960 were as follows:

Births	359
Birth rate per 1,000 population	29.4
Deaths	141
Death rate per 1,000 population	11.6
Deaths under 1 year	41
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	114

Statistics of arrivals and departures were as follows:

Year	*Arrivals*			*Departures*		
	Males	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
1956	1,657	1,190	2,847	1,697	1,478	3,175
1957	1,702	1,247	2,949	1,674	1,430	3,104
1958	1,430	994	2,424	1,457	1,084	2,541
1959	n.a.	n.a.	3,085	n.a.	n.a.	3,030
1960	n.a.	n.a.	2,873	n.a.	n.a.	3,123

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

EMPLOYMENT

THE following table shows the labour force aged 14 years and over classified by industry according to the 1960 census:

Agriculture	1,895
Forestry	3
Fishing	85
Manufacturing	337
Construction	452
Electricity and Water	27
Commerce	255
Transport	144
Services	855
	4,053

Digitized by Google

The main occupations continue to be agriculture and fishing, construction, repair and maintenance, professional and public services. Agricultural employment predominates, both wage employment and self-employment, and many agricultural workers grow cash crops in small plots around their homes as well as food crops.

Although there has been some decline in cotton cultivation, it continues to be the staple industry, providing employment of a seasonal nature for the majority of the agricultural labour force.

Emigration to the United Kingdom continued on a reduced scale. Government's participation in the scheme for placing workers in agricultural employment in the United States of America and in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, continued. Forty men were engaged in 1959 and 30 in 1960, for work in St. Croix. Unlike previous years, there was no large-scale engagement of workers for the United States in 1959, but 54 were engaged in 1960.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The wage rates in the principal occupations were as follows:

		1959 *per day*	*1960* *per day*
Agriculture			
Males			$1.30	$1.46
Females			.90	$1.00
Government Departments			
(non-established workers)			
Unskilled			
(i) Females and boys under 18 years other than apprentices			$1.02	$1.25
(ii) Males 18 years and over	B.	$1.42	$2.15
	A.	$1.56	$2.50
Semi-skilled	B.	$2.10	$2.70
	A.	$2.70	$3.15
Skilled	B.	$3.50	$4.50
	A.	$4.30	$5.00
Road Foremen		15% to 20% above the maximum rate in the category the foreman supervises	15% above the maximum rate in the category the foreman supervises
Other Foremen			$4.75	$5.50
Fruit and Vegetable Graders			$1.27	$1.50
Power-plant Operators (Electricity, Ice and Cold Storage)	B.	$2.50	$3.50
	A.	$2.76	$4.50

Digitized by Google

In agriculture, the task or piece-work system as well as the daily wage system are used. When workers are engaged on task work, payment for each task is at the specified daily rate.

Hours of work in agriculture and in Government are eight per day and work performed outside the normal day is paid for at the rate of time and one half.

COST OF LIVING

The following table shows the movements in the retail prices of the principal items of consumption:

Item	*1954*	*December 1959*	*December 1960*
	$ c	$ c	$ c
Table butter (per lb. tin)	1 36	1 36	1 36
Cooking butter (per lb.)	63	62	64
Cheese (per lb.)	1 00	1 20	1 20
Eggs (each)	.07 – .08	12	12
Fish, dried and salted, Canadian (per lb.)	44	52	52
Cornmeal (per lb.)	14	14	14
Flour (per lb.)	12	12	12
Lard (per lb.)	60	60	60
Meat, fresh (per lb.):			
Beef	†24	*42 36 30	*52 38 32
Mutton	24	36	36
Goat meat	22	30	36
Pork	26	36	36
Meat, smoked and cured (per lb.):			
Bacon	1 20	1 80	1 80
Milk, condensed, Nestles (per tin)	42	42	42
Milk, fresh (per bottle)	07	08	08
Edible oil, cotton seed (per bottle)	48	56	56
Potatoes, imported (per lb.)	12	16	16
Rice, Demerara (per lb.):			
Super quality	15	17	17
Second quality	14	15	15
Sugar (per lb.):			
Barbados (washed)	14	16	20
Antigua (washed)	14	16	20
Leeward Islands crystals	10	13	13
Onions (per lb.)	16	22	22
Charcoal (per bag)	1 44	3 00	3 00

† all cuts.
* according to cuts.

Digitized by Google

LABOUR RELATIONS

There were no serious differences between employers and employees during the period; this was an indication of improvement in relations between employers' and workers' representatives. Meetings between the two parties, whether to discuss wages or conditions of work or to settle complaints were, generally speaking, conducted in a friendly atmosphere and with a spirit of compromise.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

A Labour Officer was appointed in February 1959, and in March 1960 this officer was appointed Labour Commissioner for the purpose of exercising powers under the Labour Ordinance No. 5 of 1950. The duties of the Labour Commissioner are defined in the Ordinance as follows:

> " The Labour Commissioner shall, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, use his utmost endeavour to safeguard and promote the general welfare of workmen of the Presidency.
>
> Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision he shall—
>
> (*a*) regularly supervise and review the conditions of the various forms of employment of workmen which exist in the Presidency;
>
> (*b*) ensure the due performance of such laws as he may from time to time be required to enforce;
>
> (*c*) bring to the notice of the Administrator with reasonable speed every matter or thing, including the alleged or suspected breach of any law, which in his opinion is or is likely to be prejudicial to the welfare of any description or class of workmen, or which is causing or likely to cause disagreement between any such workmen and the employers;
>
> (*d*) make recommendations to the Administrator from time to time as occasion demands for safeguarding and promoting the general welfare of the workmen."

The Labour Commissioner also advises employers and workers on procedure for fostering good relations and for the avoidance and settlement of disputes; he undertakes conciliation when disputes arise.

LABOUR ORGANISATION

There are two registered unions and one association of employers.

Digitized by Google

LABOUR LEGISLATION

The principal labour legislation in force is as follows:

The Labour Ordinance, No. 5 of 1950

The Trade Unions Act, No. 16 of 1939

The Trades Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Act, No. 17 of 1939

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, No. 5 of 1957

The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, No. 5 of 1958

The Employment of Children Prohibition Act, No. 5 of 1939

The Labour (Minimum Wage) Act, No. 27 of 1937

The Recruiting of Workers Act, No. 4 of 1941

The Emigrants Protection Act, No. 10 of 1929.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

COMPARATIVE figures of revenue and expenditure for 1957 to 1960 are given below:

Revenue	*1957*	*1958*	*1959*	*1960*
	$	$	$	$
Customs	183,471	197,193	235,167	243,327
Internal Revenue, Excise and Licences	72,525	69,197	82,963	95,888
Fees of Court or Office, etc.	25,326	23,150	26,216	27,853
Post Office, Telephones, etc.	85,631	194,601	89,384	99,799
Other	357,958	384,039	529,022	314,907
Total Local Revenue	724,911	868,180	962,752	781,774
U.K. Grant-in-Aid, C.D. and W. Grants, etc.	521,648	857,077	1,360,839	1,178,411
TOTAL	1,246,559	1,725,257	2,323,591	1,960,185

Digitized by Google

Expenditure	*1957*	*1958*	*1959*	*1960*
	$	$	$	$
Public Debt	3,900	6,727	14,038	17,484
Pensions	85,395	63,967	55,267	57,244
Federal Services	7,840	25,795	25,220	24,916
Administration	47,866	54,703	53,092	59,877
Agriculture	38,064	44,433	49,439	50,390
Water	7,872	13,986	19,716	14,562
Medical and Health	55,018	62,437	71,199	81,121
Hospital and Allied Services	108,752	104,130	115,020	123,267
Education	144,401	156,640	169,450	183,349
Post Office, Telephones, etc.	57,727	56,279	46,702	52,524
Public Works	107,641	162,768	249,778	303,698
Other	686,165	678,376	863,401	715,661
Total Local Expenditure	1,350,641	1,430,241	1,732,322	1,684,093
C.D. and W. Schemes, etc.	160,151	372,286	471,332	318,480
TOTAL	1,510,792	1,802,527	2,203,654	2,002,573

PUBLIC DEBT

The public debt at the end of 1959 stood at $185,961 and at the end of 1960 at $179,150.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Assets exceeded liabilities by $38,583 in 1959 and by $17,253 in 1960.

TAXATION YIELDS

	1957	*1958*	*1959*	*1960*
	$	$	$	$
Import Duties	182,684	196,806	227,100	238,632
Export Duties	787	387	8,067	4,695
Income Tax	28,890	29,491	40,567	51,752
Excise	16,670	11,489	12,430	12,053

Import duties derived mainly from foodstuffs, clothing, tobacco and cigarettes, spirits, sugar and motor vehicles, while export duties were derived mainly from fruit and vegetables, including tomatoes, and from livestock.

Commonwealth goods are imported into the island at preferential rates and exports from the island enjoy reciprocal treatment in Commonwealth markets. Excise duty was collected on rum at the rate of $1.20 per imperial gallon.

Digitized by Google

Small taxation yields accrued from the following:

(*a*) stamp duties on deeds, negotiable instruments, death or estate duties, and passports;

(*b*) land tax which is chargeable at the rate of 36 cents per acre on cultivable land and 12 cents per acre on uncultivable land;

(*c*) motor vehicles in running order pay an annual licence tax of $9.60 each for private use and $14.00 each for commercial use. A tax of 96 cents per annum was charged on pedal cycles;

(*d*) trade licences ranging from $9.60 to $72.00 and liquor licences from $4.80 to $24.00 per annum.

Income tax was imposed on the chargeable income of all individuals, i.e. gross income minus earned income relief, citizenship abatement, allowances for wife, children, dependent relatives, and life insurance, and was charged on a sliding scale of rates enumerated in the Income Tax Ordinance. The rate of tax upon the chargeable income of a company was 5*s.* 6*d.* in the £.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE currency in use is the unified currency of the British Caribbean Territories (Eastern Group) issued by the British Caribbean Currency Board, the notes in circulation being $1, $2, $5, $10, $20, and $100. The dollar is fixed at 4*s.* 2*d.*, that is $4.80 to the £ sterling. The dollar system of accounting is used by Government, commercial houses and the Royal Bank of Canada, the only bank in the island.

The Government Savings Bank had 2,728 depositors with $684,899 to their credit at 31st December 1959 and 2,337 depositors with $686,753 to their credit at 31st December 1960.

Chapter 5: Commerce

THE value of imports, exports (including re-exports) and re-exports for each of the last five years is shown below:

Year	*Imports*	*Exports (including) re-exports)*	*Re-exports*
	$	$	$
1956 . . .	1,135,834	195,058	16,906
1957 . . .	1,395,883	394,570	31,492
1958 . . .	1,516,896	393,672	10,277
1959 . . .	1,879,306	534,979	22,853
1960 . . .	1,971,240	272,558	16,594

Digitized by Google

The quantity and value of the main imports and exports during the period under review are shown below:

Imports	*1959*		*1960*	
	Quantity	*Value*	*Quantity*	*Value*
		$		$
Flour (100 lb. bags)	15,932	139,889	12,065	109,314
Fish, dried salted (lb.)	155,574	77,902	177,000	58,000
Rice (180 lb. bags)	638	13,520	710	14,828
Sugar, unrefined (lb.)	1,053,231	104,239	907,428	82,532
Lumber (ft.)	145,952	41,924	276,089	62,613
Boots, shoes & slippers (prs.)	24,056	43,214	24,236	65,287
Cotton piece-goods (sq. yd.)	102,177	43,087	73,480	28,621
Cheese (lb.)	48,062	17,265	19,536	12,884
Rum (gal.)	8,746	37,857	5,274	26,928
Motor cars (number)	25	54,379	48	123,917
Cement (lb.)	1,956,000	36,673	1,509,112	36,451*
Cotton manufactures	—	41,505	—	22,246
Rayon piece-goods (sq. yd.)	46,114	25,323	25,559	18,718
Electrical equipment	—	69,839	—	60,580
Laundry soap (lb.)	85,854	18,049	61,653	23,673†
Metal manufactures	—	69,157	—	63,700
Medicines and drugs	—	27,298	—	40,403
Exports				
Carrots (lb.)	69,795	15,250	9,067	1,453
Tomatoes (lb.)	33,700	9,616	24,824	5,283
Other vegetables (lb.)	25,901	3,091	7,317	1,054
Bananas (lb.)	102,172	6,640	196,808	15,450
Cotton lint, clean (lb.)	382,913	409,717	216,864	199,983
Cotton lint, stained (lb.)	21,141	6,522	804	280
Cottonseed cake & meal (lb.)	236,560	4,795	222,740	5,520

* includes coloured and snowcem cement.
† includes other cleansing preparations.

Chapter 6: Production

LAND

THE best estimate available of the distribution of land in the colony is:

	Acres
Cultivable and arable land	9,500
Pasture land	2,200
Forest	5,000

Of this total it is estimated that some 10,500 acres are owned by estates (much of which is rented out to farmers), and the remainder is owned and managed by peasant proprietors. Land is held freehold under the Title by Registration Act. The share-cropping system, which survived on some estates in connection with cotton cultivation, has been replaced by the rental system.

Digitized by Google

Weather

Rainfall figures at the Grove Agricultural Station for the last four years have been:

	inches
1957	62.08
1958	71.88
1959	56.91
1960	47.49

The annual average for the last half-century is about 60.5 inches.

AGRICULTURE

During 1959 the post of Agricultural Superintendent was abolished and replaced by that of Director of Agriculture. Subordinate personnel comprised five Agricultural Assistants, one Banana Officer under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme, a manager of the Otway Settlement, a Livestock Officer and an Agricultural Probationer. A temporary Cotton Officer continued to operate as in previous years.

Cotton

During the 1958–59 season share cropping virtually ceased, and the area of cotton lands cultivated by peasants and estates was as follows:

	1956–57	*1957–58*	*1958–59*	*1959–60*
Acres	1,286	2,185	2,350	1,220

Yields of cotton over the last four crops were as follows:

	1956–57	*1957–58*	*1958–59*	*1959–60*
Total clean lint (lb.)	229,735	300,374	382,913	216,764
Clean lint per acre (lb.)	153	124	163	177
Stained lint % of total crop	6.2	9.7	8.5	3.8

The cotton crop was sold in Britain at prices ranging from 92 cents to 88 cents per pound lint.

Vegetables

The production of vegetables has fallen in recent years owing partly to the change in the planting season of cotton, as a result of which farmers are busy working on their cotton plots when they would previously have grown vegetables, and partly to lack of transport facilities. The Canadian National Steamship Line, which assisted in developing and sustaining this export trade, was taken off the run in 1957, and the trade has had to rely on the West Indian boats on which refrigeration space is often neither adequate nor suitable.

Digitized by Google

Marketing continued to present serious problems. The table below shows how the trade in vegetables has continued to fall:

	1957	*1958*	*1959*	*1960*
Carrots (lb.)	74,427	36,247	69,795	9,067
Tomatoes (lb.)	112,200	2,486	33,700	24,824
Eschallots (lb.)	6,759	2,206	1,263	2,618

Citrus

The Montserrat Company continued to extend lime cultivation. Several hundred grapefruit trees were planted out as a result of a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme.

Bananas

The Colonial Development and Welfare scheme for banana cultivation, approved late in 1958, got under way during 1959. Planting material was imported from Dominica and St. Lucia and both estates and peasants alike participated. Some 150 acres were planted during 1959. Export during 1960 to Britain totalled 11,948 stems valued at $14,312.

Land Settlement

The Department operates three land settlements at Otway, Galways and Trants. These accommodate 510 tenants on some 690 acres of cultivable land.

Agricultural Extension

During 1960 the Canadian-owned Leeward Islands Company was formed to develop the market garden potential of Montserrat (particularly tomatoes). Before its formation a considerable amount of investigational work was carried out on its behalf, mainly by the extension staff. The department with the assistance of Colonial Development and Welfare grants continued soil conservation work throughout the island.

With International Co-operation Administration assistance, a dam was built at Trants to supply water for irrigating vegetable plots in the area.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

There was no shortage of locally produced meat and milk, but there was a constant demand for imported poultry and eggs. The number of cattle slaughtered over the past three years was as follows:

	1958	*1959*	*1960*
Cattle	349	474	312

Digitized by Google

During 1959 and 1960, 157 and 117 head of cattle were exported to the neighbouring French islands valued at $35,685 and $26,326 respectively.

The 50 Nelthrop heifers imported under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme in 1958 were not an unqualified success: some died and some turned out to be bad breeders. It is strongly felt that in future Government should try and build up its own breeding stock.

FORESTRY

The forest officer and his rangers continued to supervise the forests and thus reduce the loss of valuable trees.

FISHERIES

The Government fishing boat *Triumph* was acquired with two objects in view: to catch fish and to assist in transporting bananas to Dominica. During 1960 fresh fish to the value of $3,023 was caught and sold in the local market.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

The Montserrat Company Limited continues to operate its small factory for the production of edible oil, cotton-seed meal and cake used for stock feed and fertiliser.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

Primary Education

There are 16 primary schools in the colony. Two of these are small fee-paying private schools. There are 12 Government schools, one Roman Catholic (grant-aided) and one Seventh Day Adventist (unassisted) school. Attendances over the past three years have been as follows:

	Enrolment	*Average Attendance*	*Percentage*
1958	3,329	2,956	89
1959	3,183	2,715	85
1960	3,089	2,785	90

Digitized by Google

Primary education is compulsory from 5 to 13 years and is free for all children between 5 and 15 years. The courses in the primary schools lead to the school-leaving certificate examination of the Department of Education. Increased attention is being given to the teaching of woodwork, handicrafts and home economics since teachers have completed training in these subjects, and this does much to broaden the basis of the education and to maintain the interest of the children.

The Leeward Islands Teachers' Training College at Golden Grove, Antigua, maintained by the four Governments of the Leeward Islands, provides one- and two-year training courses for teachers. Training in special subjects such as woodwork, handicrafts and home economics continues to be received in institutions in Jamaica, Barbados and Puerto Rico. During the period under review, 15 teachers graduated from training institutions; and at the end of 1960 there were four teachers taking degree courses at the University of the West Indies, one at a Canadian university and one at an American university.

Secondary Education

There is one secondary school in the colony, situated in Plymouth. It is divided into two sections, a senior school and a grammar school. In the former, students receive a general education with a strong infusion of practical subjects. Pupils are admitted to this section from the age of 11 years, and follow a course lasting four years. Pupils are specially selected for this section by means of a competitive examination and on the recommendation of a selection committee. No tuition fee is paid in this section. In the grammar school section the normal division into forms is maintained, and the age for admission is 10 years. Candidates are admitted after a competitive entrance examination. Pupils in this section pay both a tuition fee and a games fee.

The principal is responsible for the internal organisation, management and discipline of the school. A secondary school committee advises on policy and management.

The enrolment at the school for the period under review was:

1959	*1960*
182	181

Attendance is practically 100 per cent.

The senior school pupils pursue a course which includes the three R's, West Indian history and geography, a general introduction to English literature, the fundamentals of play-acting, and a practical grounding in music. In addition, there are courses in agriculture and woodwork for boys, and home economics, needlework and straw

Digitized by Google

Main Street, Plymouth, on a Saturday afternoon

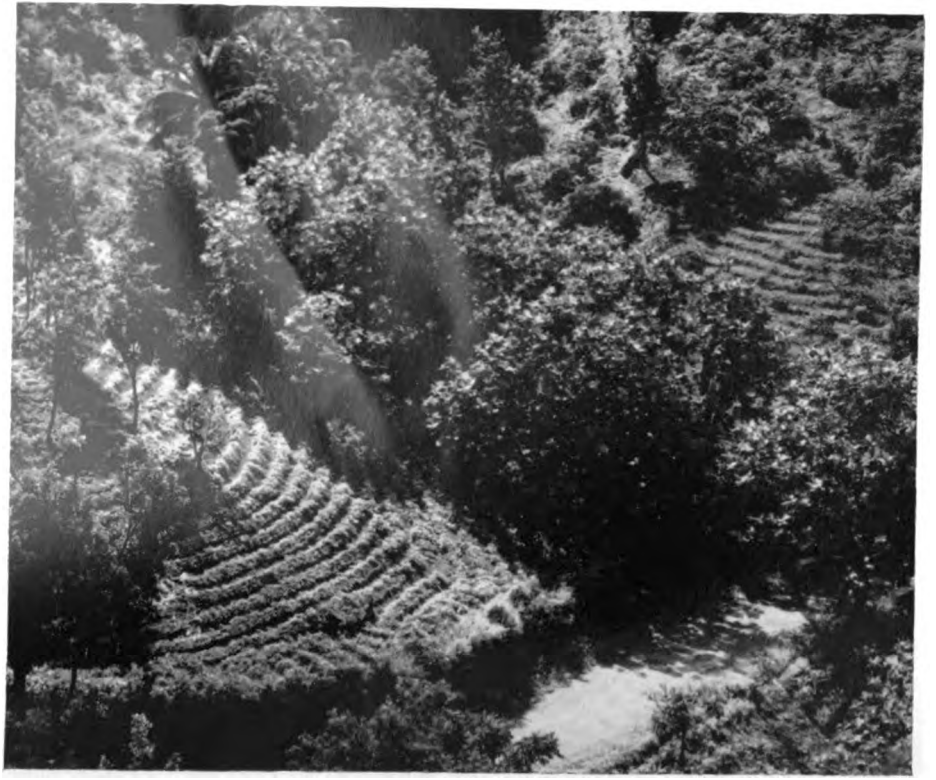
Digitized by Google

The congregation leaving St. Peter's Parish Church after service

Digitized by Google

Cars Bay, north-west Montserrat

Digitized by Google



Terrace cultivation at Zion Hill, northern Montserrat

Digitized by Google

work for girls. From the second year, the pupils are taught Spanish, with special emphasis on the spoken language. The education provided for the grammar school section is of the academic type leading to the Cambridge Higher School Certificate examinations. Chemistry is taught up to Higher School Certificate standard, and Spanish has been added to the modern language group.

Of the 26 scholarships held in the grammar school section at the end of 1960, 21 were provided by the Government, two by the Montserrat Company Limited, and one each by the Old Students' Association, the Montserrat Progressive Society in New York and the Bethel Windward Appeal Committee.

The school extra-curricular activities continue to thrive. Apart from the normal sports and athletics, there is a literary and debating society, a dramatic society and a Cadet Corps.

General

The School Dentist made regular monthly visits to schools for inspection, treatment and extraction of teeth, and there has been an improvement in the dental health of the children.

UNICEF milk has been most valuable in providing, along with yeast biscuits bought with local funds, a mid-morning snack for needy children.

Expenditure on education from the colony budget over the last four years was as follows:

	1957	*1958*	*1959*	*1960*
	$	$	$	$
Primary education	109,366	119,500	131,339	140,783
Secondary education	35,035	37,140	38,111	42,566
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	144,401	156,640	169,450	183,349

Adult Education

Much voluntary work has been done in the field of adult education.

The home economics and other adult clubs continued to function satisfactorily. Handicraft classes for adult groups were started in two centres under the guidance and supervision of the two handicraft teachers from the elementary schools.

Library

Increasing use is being made of the facilities offered by the Public Library. At the end of 1960, the registered membership was 1,181 compared with 797 at the end of 1958. The total stock of books was 6,926 and the circulation 17,870 at the end of 1960, compared with 5,831 and 18,553 in 1958.

Children attending town schools are allowed to use the Public Library, which has a children's section.

Digitized by Google

PUBLIC HEALTH

During the period under review, the colony enjoyed freedom from any serious epidemic disease. There was an outbreak of measles in 1959, 77 cases being reported, mostly among infants and young children, but this died down in 1960, with only 10 cases reported.

The mass emigration of young adults to Britain resulted in a large number of children being left in the care of grand-parents or other aged relatives who were themselves in need of care and attention. This brought about an increase in avoidable illness in the children, and a demand for beds in the hospital and the infirmary. There was an improvement during 1960, as emigration decreased.

The routine welfare clinics for infants, pre-school children, expectant and nursing mothers, and the District Medical Officers' clinics were continued throughout the period under review.

The colony had cause again to be grateful to UNICEF for the continued supply of skimmed milk powder, which has been distributed through the health centres and outposts. This has proved to be a valuable supplement to the general low protein diet, and also an incentive to attend the clinics.

A campaign to eradicate the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito (yellow fever) began in October 1957. The World Health Organisation provided an advisory consultant together with the materials and equipment. By the end of 1958 the whole of the island had been covered. For almost a year no *Aedes Aegypti* mosquitoes were found in the colony, until February 1960 when the mosquito was discovered in Kinsale and Gingoes. An intensive programme (including residual spraying) was carried out in these localities, and fortunately they were again negative by May 1960 and remained so to the end of 1960.

During 1960 Montserrat had a visit from Professor J. Walker of St. Andrew's University, Dundee, who was carrying out a survey of medical services in the area.

Diseases

Yaws. There continues to be a steady decrease in the incidence of yaws. The following shows the numbers of cases treated at Government clinics over the last five years:

1956	*1957*	*1958*	*1959*	*1960*
71	20	9	7	1

Tuberculosis. Twelve cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were reported during 1959, but only four in 1960. All were admitted to the Glendon Hospital Isolation Ward for treatment. There were four deaths from this disease during 1959 and five in 1960.

Digitized by Google

Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs. Three hundred and forty-five cases were treated in 1959, and 322 in 1960, of which the majority were minor eye conditions. Mental cases not amenable to treatment in the general ward of the Glendon Hospital are admitted for observation at Her Majesty's Prison and, if certified, are transferred to the Mental Institution at Antigua.

Diseases of the circulation. Two hundred and thirty-seven cases were treated in 1959 and 174 in 1960, hypertension being responsible for the majority of cases in both years.

Diseases of the respiratory system. These account for a high proportion of cases attending at the Government clinics; there were 1,108 cases in 1959 and 1,522 in 1960.

Diseases of the digestive system. Nine hundred and fourteen cases including 369 of gastro-enteritis and colitis were treated in 1959, the corresponding figures in 1960 being 607 and 195.

Diseases of infancy. Three hundred and fourteen cases were treated in 1959, the number dropping to 104 in 1960.

Medical, Public Health and Sanitary Services

The Senior Medical Officer administers the medical, public health and sanitary services, including the Glendon Hospital (69 beds), three health centres and six health outposts at which general, tuberculosis, pre-natal, venereal disease and yaws clinics are held; a midwifery service (10 midwives on the establishment), a sanitary service for the inspection of premises, food, etc., and the control of insect-borne diseases; a public market; an infirmary for the poor and aged; medical care at the prison; port health supervision; dental inspection and attention at the primary schools.

The colony is divided into three medical districts. The Senior Medical Officer is also Medical Officer of one district, and there are two other District Medical Officers, one of whom is the Superintendent and Surgeon of the Glendon Hospital.

The establishment of the Glendon Hospital during the period comprised the Medical Superintendent, a nursing sister (matron), another nursing sister, one charge nurse, six staff nurses, 12 student nurses, one dispenser and a laboratory technician. Training of nurses and midwives is undertaken locally under the supervision of the matron.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The Public Assistance Committee administered the Government grant, supplemented by voluntary contributions, for providing

Digitized by Google

weekly relief allowances to the aged, the poor and needy. The Government also maintained the infirmary where the aged and infirm who have no means of subsistence, or no one to care for them, are looked after. The local branch of the British Red Cross Society continued its valuable activities. Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Junior Red Cross and Church groups of young people flourished during the period under review.

As mentioned earlier, emigration has resulted in many young boys being left in the care of aged and unsuitable guardians and as a result many of them, without proper homes, take to the streets and, in a growing number of cases, to crime. The new home for delinquent boys is intended to meet this situation.

Chapter 8: Legislation

IMPORTANT legislation enacted during the period under review was as follows:

Cinematograph. Ordinance No. 4 of 1959 provides for the proper control of cinematograph exhibitions in the colony.

Cotton Export Duty. Ordinance No. 7 of 1959 re-imposes a duty on all cotton exported from the colony.

Income Tax. Ordinance No. 8 of 1959 increases the allowances deductible in respect of wives and children, and varies the rates of tax on individuals and companies.

Customs Duties. Ordinance No. 12 of 1959 authorises the imposition of customs duties in order to protect local industries from the effects of dumping and subsidisation of similar goods coming from places outside the colony.

Revised Edition of Laws. Ordinance No. 15 of 1959 provides for the preparation and publication of a Revised Edition of Laws of the colony.

Police Service Commission. Ordinance No. 25 of 1959 confers power on Her Majesty to establish by Order in Council a Police Service Commission for the colony.

Co-operative Societies. Ordinance No. 27 of 1959 provides for the formation and regulation of the operations of co-operative societies.

Digitized by Google

Constitution and Elections. Ordinance No. 1 of 1960 provides for the making of such provisions as are necessary to give effect to those decisions of the Leeward Islands and Windward Islands Constitutional Conference, 1959, which relate to the Legislative Council.

Adaptation of Laws. Ordinance No. 2 of 1960 provides for the adaptation of local laws so as to bring them into conformity with the Montserrat Letters Patent, 1959.

Interpretation and General Clauses. Ordinance No. 5 of 1960 makes such amendments to the Interpretation and General Clauses Act, 1955, as are necessary in consequence of the changes in the constitution and in the organisation of the Police Force which came into effect on 1st January 1960.

Finance and Audit. Ordinance No. 7 of 1960 makes such provisions as are necessary in relation to public finance, the audit of public accounts and the senior Audit Officer in consequence of the constitutional changes introduced on 1st January 1960.

Public Service Commission. Ordinance No. 8 of 1960 revises the law relating to the Public Service Commission in consequence of the constitutional changes effective from 1st January 1960.

Constitution and Election. Ordinance No. 11 of 1960 makes provision for the redistribution of constituencies, increasing from four to seven the number of electoral districts.

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

THE courts of law in the colony in 1959 and 1960 were:

(i) The Federal Supreme Court of the West Indies* by which appeals from the Supreme Court are heard.

(ii) The Court of Appeal of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands, which hears appeals from the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and from the Magistrate's Court.

(iii) The Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands in its criminal and civil jurisdiction.

(iv) The Court of Summary Jurisdiction which provides a relatively inexpensive and summary procedure for claims not exceeding $720.00.

(v) The Magistrate's Court which has a minor criminal and civil jurisdiction.

*This Court was replaced by the British Caribbean Court of Appeal in 1962

Digitized by Google

(vi) The Juvenile Court in which the Magistrate sits with two assessors to deal with juvenile offenders.

(vii) The Coroner's Court.

The Supreme Court sits twice a year in the Montserrat Circuit in the months of April and November and is presided over by the Judge of the Supreme Court resident in Antigua. The sitting of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction which is presided over by the same Judge usually takes place immediately after the Supreme Court.

Supreme Court

On the criminal side preliminary inquiries into indictable cases numbered 12 in 1959 and 10 in 1960 as against 14 in 1958. The following table shows the types of criminal case tried :

	1958	*1959*	*1960*
Murder	1	—	1
Manslaughter	1	—	—
Larceny	5	5	4
Rape	1	2	2
Bestiality	1	—	—
Arson	2	1	—
Wounding	3	4	2
Escaping from prison	—	—	1

The results of the cases were as follows :

	1958	*1959*	*1960*
Acquitted	7	3	Nil
Nolle Prosequi	3	3	Nil
Convicted:			
Imprisoned	3	6	11
Bound over or put on probation	3	1	1
Sentenced to death	Nil	Nil	1

On the civil side of the Supreme Court, 12 cases were heard in 1959 and 10 in 1960. In the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, 10 cases were heard in 1959 and five in 1960.

Magistrate's Court, Plymouth and Cudjoe Head

A total of 1,157 adjudications were made in 1959 and 1,023 in 1960. In the Juvenile Court, 39 adjudications were made in 1959 and 24 in 1960. Offences against the person continued to predominate as the following table shows:

Digitized by Google

	1959		*1960*	
	Adults	*Juveniles*	*Adults*	*Juveniles*
Homicide	—	—	1	—
Other Offences again the Person Act	220	12	288	8
Praedial larceny	28	5	31	1
Malicious injuries to property	23	1	25	2
Other offences against property	33	7	68	4
Offences against revenue, road and municipal laws	182	2	141	4
Miscellaneous minor offences	525	14	397	12
TOTAL	1,011	41	951	31

The persons brought before the Court were dealt with as follows :

	Adults		*Juveniles*	
	1959	*1960*	*1959*	*1960*
Acquitted	362	318	6	3
Convicted:				
Imprisoned	65	36	—	—
Fined	583	531	2	7
Bound over	46	16	4	3
Caned	—	—	9	—
Reprimanded and discharged	128	174	21	18

One hundred and sixty-seven civil processes were filed in 1959 and 169 in 1960.

POLICE

The Police constituted part of the Leeward Islands Police Force, under the command of an Assistant Superintendent of Police. In 1960 the force became a separate Antigua–Montserrat force. The establishment in Montserrat was 35 all ranks and at the end of 1960 the strength was 26.

Traffic

The Traffic Department licensed 381 vehicles in 1959 and 399 in 1960. The following table shows prosecutions instituted for breach of the Traffic Ordinance and Regulations, and traffic accidents for the last five years:

	1956	*1957*	*1958*	*1959*	*1960*
Number of prosecutions	99	79	99	78	85
Number of traffic accidents	24	76	131	41	41
Number of persons injured	15	16	16	14	16
Number of persons killed	3	1	—	1	—

Traffic signs were maintained during the period and additional signs were painted and erected in the rural areas.

Crime

The C.I.D. continued its work in crime detection with good results.

Digitized by Google

There was an increase in such crimes as embezzlement, animal theft and arson; but the incidence of praedial larceny was lower than in previous years owing to constant nightly patrols in cultivated areas.

The incidence of the main types of crime during the period 1957–59 was as follows:

	1957	*1958*	*1959*	*1960*
Breaking	24	26	28	19
Wounding and assault . .	152	113	115	64
Praedial larceny . . .	27	30	28	12

PRISONS

The prison has two main blocks of buildings with cell accommodation for 30 males and six females. The Assistant Superintendent of Police is the officer in charge of prison discipline, and the staff comprises one keeper, eight warders and a matron.

In 1959 the number of persons admitted to prison was 106, of whom 47 had previous convictions. In 1960, the numbers were 96 and 44 respectively. Of those convicted in 1959, 66 were males and three females, while in 1960 the numbers were 56 males and four females. The daily average population was 18.4 in 1959 and 17.4 in 1960.

Male prisoners were employed in carpentry, tailoring, shoe-repairing, baking, breaking stones and wood cutting, and females were engaged in washing, sewing, and cleaning.

In 1959, there were 103 offences committed by prisoners against Prison Regulations, whilst in 1960 there were 30.

In 1959, 10 males and two females were admitted to the hospital and in 1960 one male prisoner. On the whole the general health of prisoners remained satisfactory.

There was one escape during 1960.

All prisoners with sentences exceeding one month now earn remission at the rate of one-third of their sentence, provided that the remission does not reduce the period to less than 31 days. Formerly the remission was one-quarter of the sentence for males and one-third for females. The Prisoners' Aid Board provides help for discharged prisoners who serve sentences of more than six months, should it be deemed necessary. Discharged prisoners who have been sentenced for six months and over are allowed 24 cents per week for the time served.

The average annual cost of each prisoner was $375, and the average annual cost of feeding each was $265.

Digitized by Google

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

ELECTRICITY

The Electricity Department of the Government maintained a 24-hour service in Plymouth and Kinsale during the period. The supply was generated by three 40 kW. generators and one 80 kW. generator. The supply voltage is 230 volts A.C. on a frequency of 60 cycles. There was a steady increase in the consumption of electric current, and at the end of 1960 the number of consumers had risen to 450.

The cold storage plant is under the control of the Electricity Department.

WATER SERVICES

These were maintained in good condition generally, and in many instances were substantially improved by the replacement of old pipe lines by new and larger pipes. During the period under review a new reservoir was completed. Major repairs were again carried out on the windmill pump supplying water to the St. George's Hill area.

PUBLIC WORKS

A programme of repair and maintenance work on Government buildings was carried out during the period. New buildings under construction included the new Government Headquarters and a house for a senior Government officer. A programme of construction of new latrines and bath-houses was also carried out.

FIRE SERVICES

A volunteer fire brigade, which comprised one fully-trained officer and 20 volunteers, was maintained in a high state of efficiency during the period.

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

PLYMOUTH is the only seaport of entry and clearance for passengers. An open roadstead, the port now has a new concrete pier completed

Digitized by Google

in 1960 with the assistance of Colonial Development and Welfare funds. It is equipped with a mobile crane with a lifting capacity of seven tons.

A regular inter-island shipping service was maintained by two motor vessels, chartered by the Federal Government.

A small motor vessel, the m.v. *Ripon*, owned and registered in Montserrat, operated a valuable and regular service between the Leeward Islands, Dominica and Barbados.

Six hundred and two ships arrived and 593 cleared in 1960.

CIVIL AVIATION

Leeward Islands Air Transport continued to operate a regular scheduled service from Blackburne airfield on the windward coast of the island. The service included six weekly flights to Antigua, as well as flights to St. Kitts, Puerto Rico, Dominica and Barbados.

ROADS

The main roads are asphalted and total 60 miles. Secondary roads (which total some 58 miles) are unsurfaced, though during the period a steady programme of concreting or colas-surfacing the worst sections was undertaken.

POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The General Post Office is located in Plymouth and there are seven sub-post offices throughout the island. There is a letter-box service supplemented by house-to-house delivery in Plymouth. Country mails are delivered at the sub-post offices by itinerant postmen, and people call for their letters.

The telephone system comprises a two-line metallic type with one central exchange. The programme of reconditioning the telephone lines to the country was continued during the period.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, and Information Services

PRESS

ONLY one newspaper, the *Montserrat Mirror*, a weekly English language paper, is now published in the colony.

Digitized by Google

BROADCASTING

Radio Montserrat is a Government service run by volunteers. It broadcasts two hours daily with an extra hour for children on Saturdays.

INFORMATION SERVICE

There is no Government information service. The public is kept informed of matters of public interest by use of the press and the broadcasting station.

Chapter 13: Local Forces

THE Defence Force is a part-time locally recruited unit of approximately one infantry platoon in strength, trained and equipped for internal security. Training was given in foot and arms drill, ceremonial drill, field craft, tactical exercises and range practices. Annual camps continue to be held.

Expenditure on the Defence Force was as follows:

	$
1959	4,804
1960	5,210

Digitized by Google

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography

MONTSERRAT lies in 16′ 45° North latitude and 60′ 15° West longitude, 27 miles south-west of Antigua and some 40 miles north-west of Guadeloupe. It resembles a leg of ham in shape and has a maximum length of 11 miles and a maximum breadth of seven. Its area is 32½ square miles. The island is of volcanic origin and has three main mountain ridges—Silver Hill in the north (1,287 feet), Central Hill in the middle of the island (2,499 feet), and the Soufriere Hills in the south (3,002 feet).

The climate of the island is tropical and healthy, the mean maximum temperature being 86° F. and the mean minimum temperature 73° F. The annual average rainfall is about 60 inches. The central part of the west coast receives more rain than the east coast. The north and south are dry. The incidence of rain is extremely variable, but the rainiest months are usually from September to November and the dry season usually from December to June. Montserrat is windswept for the greater part of the year.

Chapter 2: History

THE island was discovered by Columbus on his second voyage to the New World in 1493. It was colonised in 1632 when a number of Irishmen who formed a part of Thomas Warner's company came across from the neighbouring island of St. Christopher (St. Kitts) and made their homes there. It was captured by the French in 1664, restored to England in 1668, capitulated to the French again in 1782, and was finally ceded to Britain in 1783.

Chapter 3: Administration

AT the end of 1960, the Montserrat Legislative Council comprised the Administrator as President, two official members, five elected members and two nominated members. There is adult suffrage under the provisions of the Constitution and Elections Ordinance, 1952.

Digitized by Google

The Executive Council consisted of the Administrator, who is President, two official members, the Chief Minister and two other Ministers and one of the nominated Members of the Legislative Council.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

THE inspection of weights and measures was duly carried out as required under section 13(1) of the Weights and Measures Act (Cap. 154). During 1959 and 1960, 127 and 139 weights and measures were tested by an authorised police officer. The standard measures recognised in the colony are as follows:

(*a*) Standard of length: the imperial yard.

(*b*) Standard of weight: the imperial pound.

(*c*) Standard of capacity: the imperial gallon.

Chapter 5: Reading List

GENERAL

ASPINALL, Sir A. *Pocket guide to the West Indies.* Methuen, 1954.

BARCLAYS BANK D.C.O. *Leeward Islands: an economic survey.* 1962.

LAWRENCE, George E. *Thomas O'Garra: a West Indian local preacher.* Epworth Press, 1956.

O'LOUGHLIN, C. "The Economy of Montserrat; a national accounts study", *Social and Economic Studies*, Vol. 8, No. 2, 1959.

STARKEY, O. P. *Commercial Geography of Montserrat.* Bloomington, Indiana University, 1960.

The West Indies and Caribbean Year Book. Thomas Skinner.

WATKINS, F. H. *Handbook of the Leeward Islands.* West India Committee, 1924.

Digitized by Google

DESCRIPTIVE

ASPINALL, Sir A. *A Wayfarer in the West Indies.* West India Committee, 1928.

FROUDE, J. A. *The English in the West Indies.* Longman Green, 1888.

HISTORICAL

BURNS, Sir ALAN. *History of the British West Indies.* Allen and Unwin, 1954.

EDWARDS, BRYAN. *History of British Colonies in the West Indies.* John Stockdale, 1793.

PARRY, J. H. and SHERLOCK, P. M. *A short history of West Indies.* Macmillan, 1956.

SOUTHEY, Captain THOMAS. *Chronological history of the West Indies.* Longman, Rees, Orme Brown and Green, 1827.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

Obtainable, if in print, from Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Report of the Leeward and Windward Islands Constitutional Conference, London, June 1959. Cmnd. 804, 1959.

Report of the Leeward Islands and Windward Islands Constitutional Conference, London, June 1961. Cmnd. 1434, 1961.

Obtainable from the Government Printer, Antigua.

Antigua, Montserrat and Virgin Islands Gazette. Antigua Government Printing Office, Weekly.

Digitized by Google

APPENDIX

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
1960

The Administrator, Mr. D. A. Wiles, O.B.E., President.

Mr. D. F. Johnson, Crown Attorney.

Mr. T. E. A. Perkins, Financial Secretary.

Mr. W. H. Bramble, Chief Minister and Minister for Trade and Production.

Mr. B. W. Edwards, Minister for Social Services and Public Works.

Mr. M. E. Walkinshaw, Minister without Portfolio.

Mr. J. W. R. Perkins, Additional Member.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
1960

The Administrator, Mr. D. A. Wiles, O.B.E., President.

Mr. D. F. Johnson, Crown Attorney.

Mr. T. E. A. Perkins, Financial Secretary.

Mr. W. H. Bramble, Chief Minister and Minister for Trade and Production.

Mr. B. W. Edwards, Minister for Social Services and Public Works.

Mr. M. E. Walkinshaw, Minister without Portfolio.

Mr. H. H. Lee, Elected Member for the Northern District.

Mr. M. Dyer, Elected Member for the Southern District.

Mr. J. W. R. Perkins, Nominated Member.

Mr. M. S. Osborne, O.B.E., Nominated Member.

Digitized by Google

Printed in England for Her Majesty's Stationery Office
by W'm. Pollard & Co. Ltd., Exeter

Wt. 3852 K 9

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

© *Crown copyright* 1963

Published for the Colonial Office by
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased from
York House, Kingsway, London W.C.2
423 Oxford Street, London W.1
13A Castle Street, Edinburgh 2
109 St. Mary Street, Cardiff
39 King Street, Manchester 2
50 Fairfax Street, Bristol 1
35 Smallbrook, Ringway, Birmingham 5
80 Chichester Street, Belfast 1
or through any bookseller

S.O. Code No. 58-1-23-60

Digitized by Google

G972.97
M769r

Please do not trim
WATCH for folding
plates

JAN 2 8 1965

Montserrat

1961 and 1962

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1964
PRICE 3s. 6d. NET

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

G 972.97
M 769r

MONTSERRAT

Report for the years 1961 and 1962

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1964

Digitized by Google

CONTENTS

PART I

			page
Chapter	1	General Review	3

PART II

Chapter	1	Population	5
	2	Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation	5
	3	Public Finance and Taxation	9
	4	Currency and Banking	10
	5	Commerce	11
	6	Production	12
	7	Social Services	14
	8	Legislation	19
	9	Justice, Police and Prisons	20
	10	Public Utilities and Public Works	23
	11	Communications	24
	12	Press, Broadcasting and Information Services	25
	13	Local Forces	26

PART III

Chapter	1	Geography	27
	2	History	27
	3	Administration	27
	4	Weights and Measures	28
	5	Reading List	28

APPENDIX : Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils 30

A map will be found facing the last page

Digitized by Google

PART I

General Review

Constitutional

The Federation of The West Indies was dissolved on 31st May 1962 as a result of the secession of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. The constitutional amendments recommended by the Leeward and Windward Islands constitutional conference held in London between 19th and 22nd June 1961 and published in Cmnd. 1434 could not therefore be implemented. However, Barbados and the Leeward (excluding the British Virgin Islands) and Windward Islands decided to try to form themselves into a new federation, and a conference of representatives of the eight Governments was held in London in May 1962 to consider the proposals.

Economic

The general economy of the island remains dependent on the productivity of the land. There was very little change in the economic out-turn as unfavourable weather conditions and uncertain market prices prevented crop yields from coming up to expectations during the period under review.

External Communications

The Leeward Islands Air Transport Company maintained their services from Blackburne Airfield and owing to the growing demand for both passenger and freight services, consideration was given by Government to the possibility of extending the runway to take larger aircraft. To that end the assistance of the United States Aid Mission to the West Indies and Eastern Caribbean was sought in making a survey and providing technical advice on the improvement of the runway. The two " Federal " boats which were brought into service in 1960 for the purpose of inter-island trade carried out fortnightly scheduled runs between the islands. The locally-owned motor vessel *Ripon* operated a regular service between the Leeward Islands, Dominica, Barbados, British Guiana and Puerto Rico.

Digitized by Google

Important Visits

Important visitors to the colony during the period under review included Mr. Duncan Sandys, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Mrs. Sandys; Lady Hailes, wife of the Governor-General of The West Indies; Mr. J. C. Jones, C.B.E., Secretary of State's adviser on Technical Education; Mr. E. G. Donohoe of the Colonial Office; Mr. D. J. Rose, M.B.E., Federal Defence Officer.

Digitized by Google

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE estimated population at the end of 1962 was 12,945 compared with 12,717 in 1961 and 12,358 in 1960. Statistics of births, deaths, arrivals and departures are given below.

	1960	*1961*	*1962*
Mid-year population, estimate	12,197	12,538	12,831
Total live births	359	335	324
Birth rate per 1,000	29.5	26.7	25.3
Deaths	141	136	128
Death rate per 1,000	11.5	10.8	9.98

Arrivals and Departures

Arrivals

Year	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
1960	n.a.	n.a.	2,873
1961	2,461	1,517	3,978
1962	2,487	1,508	3,995

Departures

Year	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
1960	n.a.	n.a.	3,123
1961	2,317	1,501	3,818
1962	2,321	1,642	3,963

There were 43 marriages during 1962 compared with 55 in 1961.

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

EMPLOYMENT

THE following table shows the labour force aged 14 years and over classified by industry according to the 1960 census:

Agriculture	1,895
Forestry	3
Fishing	85
Manufacturing	337
Construction	452
Electricity and Water	27
Commerce	255
Transport	144
Services	855
	4,053

Digitized by Google

The main occupations continue to be agriculture and fishing, construction, repair and maintenance, professional and public services. Agricultural employment predominates and the pattern includes both wage employment and self employment, and many agricultural workers grow cash crops as well as food crops in small plots.

There was some reduction in wage employment opportunities in agriculture during the period, with a comparatively small rise in employment opportunities in building construction.

Emigration to Britain mainly of relatives of recent emigrants continued. Government's participation in the scheme for placing workers in agricultural employment in the United States of America and in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, continued; 45 men were engaged in each year for the United States and 30 in each year for St. Croix.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The wage rates in the principal occupations were as follows:

		1961 *$ per day*	*1962* *$ per day*
Agriculture			
Males		1.57	1.57
Females		1.06	1.06
Government Departments (non-established workers)			
Unskilled			
(i) Females and boys under 18 years other than apprentices		1.25	1.25
(ii) Males 18 years and over	B.	2.15	2.15
	A.	2.50	2.50
Semi-skilled	B.	2.70	2.70
	A.	3.15	3.15
Skilled	B.	4.50	4.50
	A.	5.00	5.00
Road Foreman		15% above the maximum rate in the category the foreman supervises	15% above the maximum rate in the category the foreman supervises
Other Foremen		5.50	5.50
Fruit & Vegetable Graders		1.50	1.50
Power-plant Operators (Electricity, Ice and Cold Storage)	B.	3.50	3.50
	A.	4.50	4.50

In agriculture, the task or piece-work system as well as the daily wage system are used. When workers are engaged on task work, payment for each task is at the specified daily rate.

Digitized by Google

Hours of work in agriculture and in Government are eight per day and work performed outside the normal day is paid for at the rate of time and one half.

COST OF LIVING

The following table shows the movements in the retail prices of the principal items of consumption:

Item	*1959* *Dec.* $ c	*1960* *Dec.* $ c	*1962* *Dec.* $ c
Table butter (per lb. tin)	1 36	1 36	1 36
Cooking butter (per lb.)	62	64	64
Cheese (per lb.)	1 20	1 20	1 20
Eggs (each)	12	12	14
Fish, dried and salted, Canadian (per lb.)	52	52	56
Cornmeal (per lb.)	14	14	17
Flour (per lb.)	12	12	13
Lard (per lb.)	60	60	60
Meat, fresh (per lb.):			
Beef	*42	*52	*52
	36	38	38
	30	32	32
Mutton	36	36	50
Goat meat	30	36	50
Pork	36	36	60
Meat, smoked and cured (per lb.):			
Bacon	1 80	1 80	1 80
Milk, condensed, Nestles (per tin)	42	42	42
Milk, fresh (per bottle)	08	08	10
Edible oil, cotton seed (per bottle)	56	56	85
Potatoes, imported (per lb.)	16	16	25
Rice, Demerara (per lb.):			
Super quality	17	17	17
Second quality	15	15	15
Sugar (per lb.):			
Barbados (washed)	16	20	20
Antigua (washed)	16	20	20
Leeward Islands crystals	13	13	13
Onions (per lb.)	22	22	22
Charcoal (per bag)	3 00	3 00	3 00

* according to cuts

LABOUR RELATIONS

Relations between employers and workers were satisfactory. There were indications of a better understanding between the parties, and in discussions they showed a willingness to compromise.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The staff of the Labour Department consists of a Labour Commissioner and one clerk. The duties of the Labour Commissioner are defined in the Labour Ordinance No. 5 of 1950 as follows:

Digitized by Google

" The Labour Commissioner shall, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, use his utmost endeavour to safeguard and promote the general welfare of workmen of the Presidency.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision he shall—

(*a*) regularly supervise and review the conditions of the various forms of employment of workmen which exist in the Presidency;

(*b*) ensure the due performance of such laws as he may from time to time be required to enforce;

(*c*) bring to the notice of the Administrator with reasonable speed every matter or thing, including the alleged or suspected breach of any laws, which in his opinion is or is likely to be prejudicial to the welfare of any description or class of workmen, or which is causing or likely to cause disagreement between any such workmen and the employers;

(*d*) make recommendations to the Administrator from time to time as occasion demands for safeguarding and promoting the general welfare of the workmen."

The Labour Commissioner also advises employers and workers on procedure for fostering good relations and for the avoidance and settlement of disputes; he undertakes conciliation when disputes arise.

LABOUR ORGANISATION

There are two registered workers unions and one association of employers.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

The principal labour legislation in force is as follows:

The Labour Ordinance, No. 5 of 1950
The Trade Unions Act, No. 16 of 1939
The Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Act, No. 17 of 1939
The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, No. 5 of 1957
The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, No. 5 of 1958
The Employment of Children Prohibition Act, No. 5 of 1939
The Labour (Minimum Wage) Act, No. 27 of 1937
The Recruiting of Workers Act, No. 4 of 1941
The Emigrants Protection Act, No. 10 of 1929.

The Protection of Wages Ordinance, 1962, was passed by the Legislature in 1962; it has not yet been put into force.

Digitized by Google

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

COMPARATIVE figures of revenue and expenditure for 1959 to 1962 are given below:

Revenue	*1959* $	*1960* $	*1961* $	*1962* $
Customs	235,167	243,327	283,287	325,350
Internal Revenue, Excise and Licences	82,964	95,888	103,911	130,911
Fees of Court or Office, etc.	26,216	27,853	33,793	52,150
Post Office, Telephones, etc.	89,384	99,799	107,004	157,031
Other	529,021	314,907	290,500	338,522
Total Local Revenue	962,752	781,774	818,495	1,003,964
Other (including U.K. Grant-in-Aid and C.D. & W. grants)	1,360,839	1,178,411	1,193,904	1,036,143
TOTAL	$2,323,591	$1,960,185	$2,012,399	$2,040,107

Expenditure	*1959* $	*1960* $	*1961* $	*1962* $
Public Debt	14,038	17,484	17,478	17,597
Pensions	55,267	57,244	87,660	88,536
Federal Services	25,220	24,916	24,916	24,916
Administration	53,092	59,877	58,383	44,659
Agriculture	49,439	50,390	56,004	57,122
Water	19,716	14,562	32,574	20,868
Medical and Health	71,199	81,121	90,192	96,123
Hospital and Allied Services	115,020	123,267	142,161	133,611
Education	169,450	183,349	286,309	251,145
Post Office, Telephones, etc.	46,702	52,524	56,806	79,664
Public Works	249,778	303,698	409,370	273,273
Other	863,401	715,661	803,681	892,843
Total Local Expenditure	1,732,322	1,684,093	2,065,534	1,941,999
Other (including C.D. and W. Schemes)	471,332	318,480	137,612	147,889
TOTAL	$2,203,654	$2,002,573	$2,203,146	$2,089,888

PUBLIC DEBT

The public debt at the end of 1961 stood at $167,539 and at the end of 1962 at $162,249.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Liabilities exceeded assets by $173,494 in 1961 and by $233,175 in 1962.

Digitized by Google

TAXATION YIELDS

	1959	*1960*	*1961*	*1962*
	$	$	$	$
Import Duties . . .	227,100	238,632	273,214	207,000
Export Duties	8,067	4,695	3,725	10,000
Income Tax	40,567	51,752	65,955	70,000
Excise	12,430	12,053	11,616	15,000

Import duties were derived mainly from foodstuffs, clothing, tobacco and cigarettes, spirits, sugar and motor vehicles, while export duties were derived mainly from cotton, fruit and vegetables (including tomatoes) and from livestock.

Commonwealth goods are imported into the island at preferential rates, and exports from the island enjoy reciprocal treatment in Commonwealth markets. Excise duty is collected on rum at the rate of $1.20 per imperial gallon.

Small taxation yields accrue from the following:

(*a*) stamp duties from deeds, negotiable instruments, death and estate duties and passports;

(*b*) land tax which is chargeable at $1 per acre on cultivable land and 30 cents per acre on non-cultivable land;

(*c*) motor vehicles in running order pay an annual licence of $10 each for motor cycles and $20 each for all other motor vehicles;

(*d*) trade licences range from $12 to $100 per annum, payable half-yearly in advance, and liquor licences from $48 to $192 per annum, payable quarterly.

Income tax is imposed on the chargeable income of all individuals, i.e. gross income minus earned income relief, citizenship abatement, allowances for wife, children, dependent relatives, and life insurance, and is charged on a sliding scale of rates enumerated in the Income Tax Ordinance. Company tax is now 6*s.* 8*d.* in the £.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE currency in use is the unified currency of the British Caribbean Territories (Eastern Group) issued by the British Caribbean Currency Board, the notes in circulation being $1, $2, $5, $10, $20 and $100.

The dollar is fixed at 4*s.* 2*d.*, that is $4.80 to the £ sterling. The dollar system of accounting is used by Government, commercial houses and the Royal Bank of Canada, the only commercial bank in the island.

The Government Savings Bank had 2,949 depositors with $718,721 to their credit at 31st December 1961, and 3,049 depositors with $689,445 to their credit at 31st December 1962.

Digitized by Google

Chapter 5: Commerce

THE value of imports, exports (including re-exports) and re-exports for each of the last five years is shown below:

Year	*Imports*	*Exports (including re-exports)*	*Re-exports*
	$	$	$
1958	1,516,896	393,672	10,277
1959	1,879,306	534,979	22,853
1960	1,971,240	272,558	16,594
1961	2,140,325	307,214	82,258
1962	2,538,440	546,789	147,243

The quantity and value of the main imports and exports during the period under review are as shown below:

	1961		*1962*	
	Quantity	*Value* $	*Quantity*	*Value* $
Flour (100 lb. bags)	14,925	143,423	14,768	140,995
Fish, dried salted (lb.)	9,715	2,643	3,416	1,023
Rice (180 lb. bags)	1,347	31,445	1,373	33,988
Sugar, unrefined (lb.)	500,940	78,890	563,347	65,622
Lumber (ft.)	417,531	70,623	303,868	52,417
Boots, Shoes and Slippers (pr.)	29,407	71,344	25,407	56,564
Cotton Piece Goods (sq. yd.)	93,881	49,085	94,054	50,244
Cheese (lb.)	24,802	15,872	25,678	16,814
Rum (gal.)	8,722	37,239	5,960	26,138
Motor Cars (no.)	38	84,850	62	163,482
Cement (lb.)	1,660,452	32,478	3,513,357	72,712
Cotton Manufactures	—	13,305	—	20,914
Rayon Piece Goods (sq. yd.)	56,058	30,749	26,130	19,449
Electrical Equipment	—	17,228	—	46,108
Soap and Cleansing Preparations (lb.)	86,906	36,018	94,183	35,592
Metal Manufactures	—	69,304	—	70,361
Medicine and Drugs	—	35,652	—	43,631

Exports	*1961*		*1962*	
	Quantity	*Value* $	*Quantity*	*Value* $
Carrots	2,825	391	2,716	416
Tomatoes (lb.)	34,874	8,013	746,038	108,263
Other Vegetables (lb.)	74,402	9,050	23,656	5,604
Bananas (lb.)	154,944	14,277	645,725	38,954
Raw Lime Juice (gal.)	6,707	10,061	261	1,018
Cotton Lint, Clean (lb.)	205,850	200,758	156,495	159,155
Cotton Lint, Stained (lb.)	54,272	1,796	—	—
Cotton Seed Cake and Meal (lb.)	163,475	3,478	94,080	2,742

Digitized by Google

Chapter 6: Production

LAND

THE best estimate available of the distribution of land in the colony is:

	Acres
Cultivable and arable land	9,500
Pasture land	2,200
Forest	5,000

Of this total it is estimated that some 10,500 acres are owned by estates (much of which is rented out to farmers), and the remainder is owned and managed by peasant proprietors. Land is held freehold under the Title by Registration Act. The share-cropping system in connection with cotton cultivation has been replaced by the rental system.

Weather

Rainfall figures at the Grove Agricultural Station for the past four years have been:

	Inches
1959	56.91
1960	47.49
1961	55.11
1962	62.95

The annual average for the last half-century is about 60.5 inches.

AGRICULTURE

A Director of Agriculture, appointed early in 1961, served for one year. A Chief Extension Officer and an Agricultural Engineer were appointed under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme. Subordinate personnel comprised five Agricultural Assistants, one Banana Officer under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme, a manager of the Otway Settlement, and an Agricultural Probationer. A temporary Cotton Officer continued to operate as in the previous year.

Cotton

The following acreages was cultivated by peasants and estates:

1958–59	*1959–60*	*1960–61*	*1961–62*
2,350	1,220	1,250	1,075

Digitized by Google

Yields of cotton over the last four crops were as follows:

	1958–59	*1959–60*	*1960–61*	*1961–62*
Total Clean Lint (lb.)	382,913	216,404	152,800	143,860
Clean Lint per acre (lb.)	163	177	140	135
Stained Lint % of total crop	8.5	3.8	7	9

The 1961–62 cotton crop was sold in Britain at a price of $1.16 per pound lint.

Vegetables

The production of vegetables has fallen in recent years owing partly to the change in the planting season of cotton, as a result of which farmers are busy working on their cotton plots when they would previously have grown vegetables, and partly to lack of transport facilities.

Marketing continued to be a problem.

The table below shows the trade in vegetables over the past four years:

	1959	*1960*	*1961*	*1962*
Carrots (lb.)	69,795	9,067	2,815	581
Tomatoes (lb.)	33,700	24,824	34,874	61,104
Eschallots (lb.)	1,263	2,618	2,634	—

Citrus

The Montserrat Company continued to extend lime cultivation. Several hundred grapefruit trees were planted out as a result of a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme (D.3346).

Bananas

The banana industry showed encouraging signs of improvement during 1961 and 1962, but the lack of feeder roads curtailed expansion. Exports to Britain were valued at $14,277 in 1961 and at $38,954 in 1962.

Land Settlement

The Department operates three land settlements at Otway, Galways and Trants. These together accommodate 510 tenants on some 690 acres of cultivable land.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

There was no shortage of locally produced meat and milk, but there was a demand for imported poultry and eggs. However the local production of poultry and eggs showed signs of improvement.

The number of animals recorded as slaughtered was as follows:

	1961	*1962*
Cattle	387	351
Goats	226	329
Sheep	243	281
Pigs	96	158

Digitized by Google

During 1961, 77 head of cattle were exported to the neighbouring French islands valued at $18,978. Cattle exports in 1962 totalled 153 head valued at $37,402.

Hides and skins exported during the period under review were valued at $3,512.

FORESTRY

The forest rangers continued to supervise forests and thus reduce the cutting of valuable forests.

INDUSTRIES

The Montserrat Company Limited continues to operate its small factory for the production of edible oil, cotton-seed meal and cake used for stock feed and as fertilizer. The tomato paste processing plant which went into production late in 1960 continued operations and exported 46,140 lb. of paste in 1961 and 306,363 lb. in 1962.

Substantial income tax and customs duties relief is given under the Hotels Aid Ordinance (passed in 1954 and amended in 1955) to persons spending money on the construction and maintenance of hotels.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

Primary Education

There are 15 primary schools in the colony: 12 Government schools, one Roman Catholic (grant-aided) school, one Seventh Day Adventist (unassisted) school, and one small fee-paying private school. Attendances over the past three years have been as follows:

	Enrolment	*Average Attendance*	*Percentage*
1960 . . .	3,089	2,785	90
1961 . . .	3,080	2,834	92
1962 . . .	3,025	2,755	91

Primary education is compulsory from 5 to 13 years and is free for all children between 5 and 15 years. The courses in the primary schools lead to the school-leaving certificate examination of the Department of Education. Increased attention is being given to the teaching of woodwork, handicrafts and home economics since teachers have completed training in these subjects, and this does much to broaden the basis of the education and to maintain the interest of the children.

Digitized by Google

Secondary Education

There is one secondary school in the colony, situated in Plymouth. It is divided into two sections, a senior school and a grammar school. In the former, students receive a general education with a strong infusion of practical subjects. Pupils are admitted to this section from the age 11 years, and follow a course lasting four years. Pupils are specially selected for this section by means of a competitive examination and on the recommendation of a selection committee. No tuition fee is paid in this section. In the grammar school section the normal division into forms is maintained, and the age for admission is 10 years. Candidates are admitted after a competitive entrance examination. Pupils in this section pay both a tuition fee and a games fee.

The principal is responsible for the internal organisation, management and discipline of the school. A secondary school committee advises on policy and management.

Enrolment at the school was 176 in 1961 and 186 in 1962. Attendance is practically 100 per cent.

The senior school pupils follow a course which includes the three R's, West Indian history and geography, a general introduction to English literature, the fundamentals of play-acting, and a practical grounding in music. In addition, there are courses in agriculture and woodwork for boys, and in home economics, needlework and straw work for girls. From the second year, the pupils are taught Spanish, with special emphasis on the spoken language. The education provided for the grammar school section is of the academic type leading to the Cambridge Higher School Certificate examinations. Chemistry is taught up to Higher School Certificate standard, and Spanish has been added to the modern language group.

Of the 32 scholarships held in the grammar school section at the end of 1962, 24 were provided by the Government, two by the Montserrat Company, Limited, three by old students of the Montserrat Secondary School and three by the Montserrat Progressive Society in New York.

The school extra-curricular activities continue to thrive. Apart from the normal sports and athletics, there is a literary and debating society, a dramatic society and a Cadet Corps.

Teacher Training

The Leeward Islands Teachers' Training College at Golden Grove, Antigua, maintained by the four Governments of the Leeward Islands, provides one- and two-year training courses for teachers. Training in special subjects such as woodwork, handicraft and home economics continues to be received in institutions in Jamaica and

Digitized by Google

Barbados. During the period under review, six teachers graduated from training institutions; and at the end of 1962 there were five teachers taking degree courses and one a post-graduate Diploma in Education at the University of the West Indies, one at a Canadian University, one at an American university and three at universities in Britain.

General

The School Dentist made regular monthly visits to schools for lectures, inspection, extraction and treatment of teeth, and there has been an improvement in the dental health of the children.

UNICEF milk has been most valuable in providing, along with yeast biscuits bought with local funds, a mid-morning snack for needy children.

Expenditure on education from the colony budget over the last four years was as follows:

	1959	*1960*	*1961*	*1962*
	$	$	$	$
Primary Education . . .	131,339	140,783	227,495	206,180
Secondary Education . .	38,111	42,566	58,814	62,823
TOTAL EXPENDITURE .	169,450	183,349	286,309	269,003

Adult Education

Much voluntary work has been done in the field of adult education.

The home economics and other adult clubs continued to function satisfactorily. Handicraft classes for adult groups were started in two centres under the guidance and supervision of the two handicraft teachers from the elementary schools.

Library

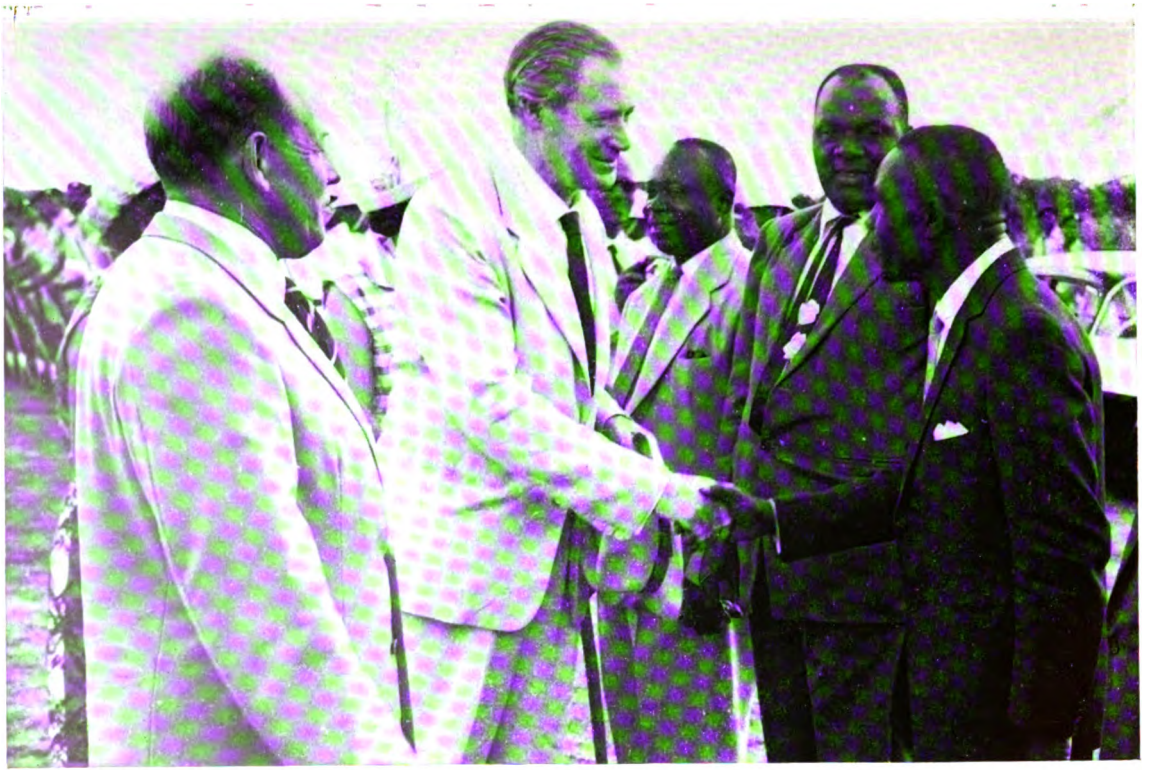
Increasing use is being made of the facilities offered by the Public Library. At the end of 1962, the registered membership was 1,583 compared with 1,392 at the end of 1961. The total stock of books was 11,579 and the circulation 19,506 at the end of 1962 compared with 8,111 and 14,722 in 1961.

Children attending town schools are allowed to use the Public Library, which has a children's section.

PUBLIC HEALTH

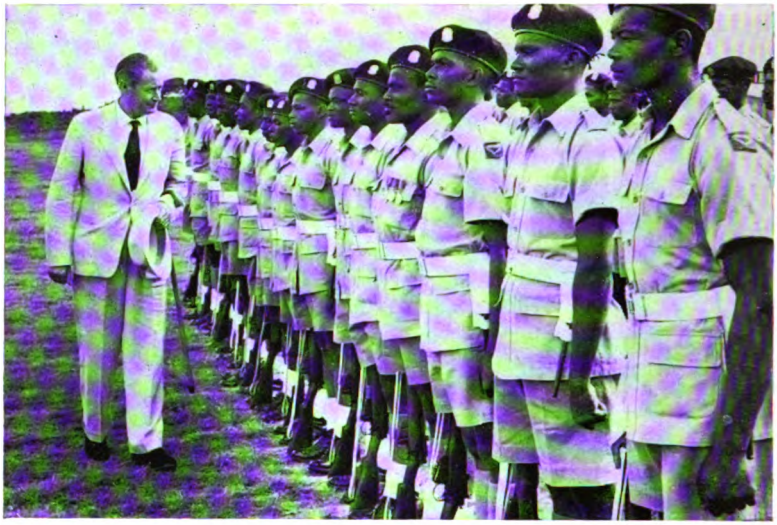
During the period under review, the colony was free from any serious epidemic disease. There was, however, an outbreak of typhoid fever in 1961, 24 cases being reported.

Digitized by Google

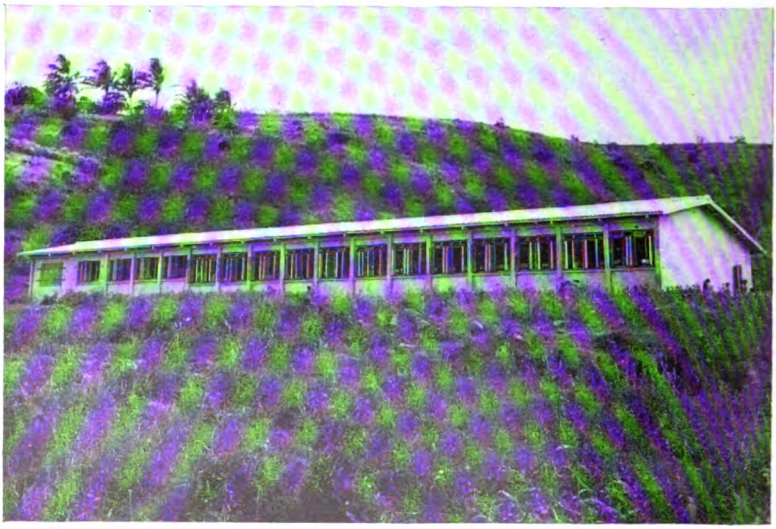


The Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Duncan Sandys, being introduced to Members of Executive Council by the Administrator (left), during his visit to Montserrat in December 1962

Digitized by Google

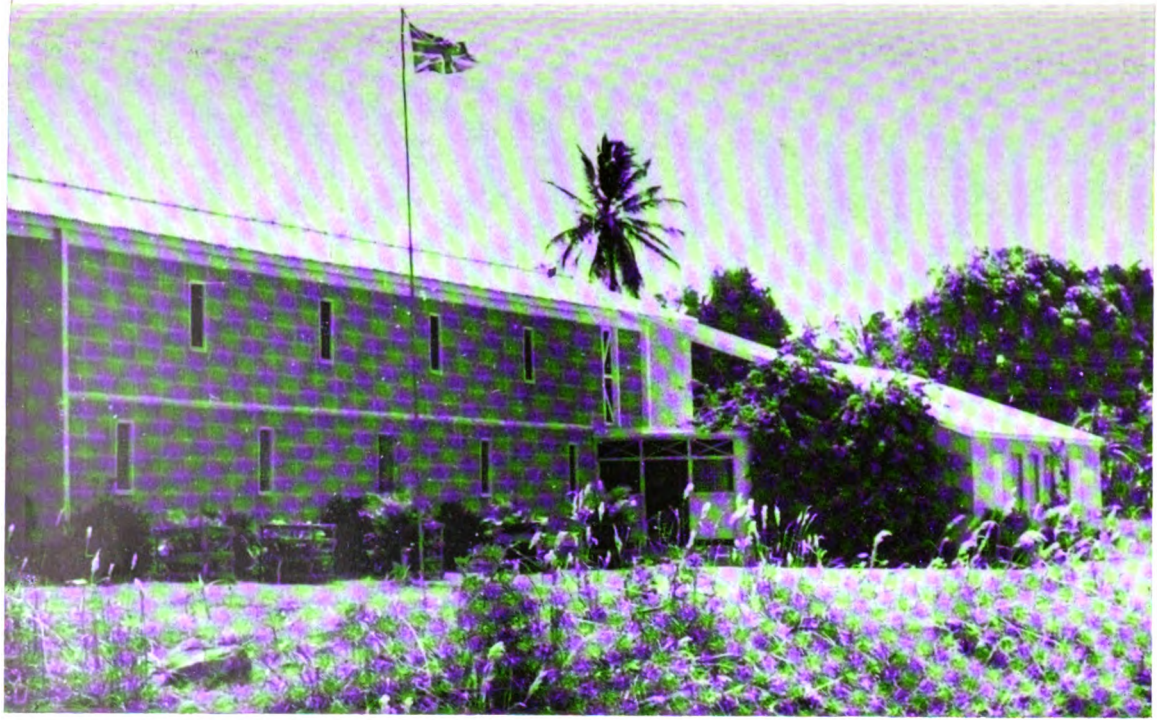


Mr. Duncan Sandys inspects the Guard of Honour mounted by the Montserrat Defence Force and Police



Government Primary School at Kinsale built with Colonial ***Development*** *and Welfare funds*

Digitized by Google



New Government Headquarters building with Public Library at right

Digitized by Google

A view of one of the new hotels recently built on the island

Digitized by Google

The emigration of young adults to Britain has resulted in a large number of children being left in the care of grand-parents or other aged relatives who are themselves in need of care and attention. This has brought about an increase in avoidable illness in these children, and a demand for beds in the hospital and the infirmary. There was, however, an improvement in 1962, as emigration decreased.

The routine welfare clinics for infants, pre-school children, expectant and nursing mothers, and the District Medical Officers' clinics were continued throughout the period under review.

The colony had cause again to be grateful to UNICEF for the continued supply of skimmed milk powder, which has been distributed through the health centres and outposts. This has proved to be a valuable supplement to the general low-protein diet, and also an incentive to attend the clinics.

The campaign to eradicate the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito (yellow fever) continued with assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare funds and advice from WHO/PAHO.

Regular periodic inspections gave consistently negative results from May 1960 to September 1962 when two isolated areas were discovered in an island-wide survey. The necessary preventive measures were immediately undertaken.

During the period Montserrat had visits from Dr. G. H. K. Gentle of WHO; Dr. Edward Kupka, WHO/PAHO Consultant; Professor Andrew B. Semple of Liverpool University, Consultant in Public Health; and Miss Frances Williamson, Health Education Adviser to the Ministry of Labour and Social Services of the West Indies Federal Government.

Diseases

The incidence of certain infectious and systemic disease is indicated in the succeeding paragraphs.

Tuberculosis. Four cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were reported during 1961, and the same number in 1962. All were admitted to the Glendon Hospital Isolation Ward for treatment. There were two deaths from this disease during 1961, and the same number in 1962.

Diseases of the sense organs. Two hundred and ninety-nine cases were treated in 1961 and 446 cases in 1962. The majority were minor eye conditions.

Digitized by Google

Mental illness. As there is now no observation ward at the Glendon Hospital, mental cases not amenable to treatment in the general ward of the hospital are admitted for observation to Her Majesty's Prison and, if certified, are transferred to the Mental Hospital at Antigua. There were eight mental cases for each of the years 1961 and 1962.

Diseases of the circulation. Seventy-five cases were treated in 1961 and 233 in 1962, hypertension being responsible for the majority of cases in the earlier year.

Diseases of the respiratory system. These account for a high proportion of cases attending at the Government clinics; in 1961 there were 726 cases and in 1962 1,365 cases.

Diseases of the digestive system. Five hundred and nineteen cases, including 275 of gastro-enteritis and colitis, were treated in 1961, the corresponding figures in 1962 being 784 and 244.

Diseases of infancy. Fifty-two cases were treated in 1961, the number dropping to 37 in 1962.

Medical, Public Health and Sanitary Services

The Senior Medical Officer administers the medical, public health, and sanitary services, including the Glendon Hospital (69 beds), three health centres and six health outposts at which general, tuberculosis, pre-natal, venereal disease and yaws clinics are held; a midwifery service (10 midwives on the establishment); a sanitary service for the inspection of premises, food, etc., and the control of insect-borne diseases; a public market; an infirmary for the poor and aged; medical care at the prison; port health supervision; dental inspection and attention at the primary schools.

The colony is divided into three medical districts. The Medical Superintendent of the Glendon Hospital is also Medical Officer of the town district, while another district Medical Officer takes care of the two country districts.

The establishment of the Glendon Hospital during the period comprised the Medical Superintendent, a nursing sister (matron), another nursing sister, one charge nurse, six staff nurses, 12 student nurses, one dispenser and a laboratory technician. Training of nurses and midwives is undertaken locally under the supervision of the matron.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The Public Assistance Committee administered the Government grant, supplemented by voluntary contributions, for providing weekly relief allowances to the aged, the poor and needy. The

Digitized by Google

Government also maintained the infirmary where the aged and infirm who have no means of subsistence, or no one to care for them are looked after.

The local branches of the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade continued their valuable activities. The youth movements, i.e. Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Junior Red Cross and Church groups of young people, reported satisfactory progress during the period under review.

Emigration has resulted in many young boys being left in the care of aged and unsuitable guardians and consequently many of them, without proper homes, take to the streets and, in a growing number of cases, to crime. The home for delinquent boys is intended to meet this situation.

There are no probation services in the colony.

Chapter 8: Legislation

IMPORTANT legislation enacted during the period under review was as follows:

Limitation of Actions. Ordinance No. 11 of 1961 simplifies and modifies the law relating to the application of periods of limitation in regard to civil proceedings.

Trustees. Ordinance No. 12 of 1961 revises the law relating to trustees.

Conveyancing. Ordinance No. 13 of 1961 revises the law relating to conveyancing and real property.

Law Revision. Ordinance No. 23 of 1961 repeals certain laws of the colony which have become unnecessary and amends others.

Magistrate's Code of Procedure. Ordinance No. 35 of 1961 extends the jurisdiction of a magistrate in civil matters from $96 to $200 in cases of contract and from $48 to $100 in cases of tort. It also confers jurisdiction on a magistrate to award compensation to persons defrauded or injured.

Summary Jurisdiction. Ordinance No. 36 of 1961 extends the civil jurisdiction of the Summary Court in respect of the subject matter that comes before it from $240 to $720.

Finance and Audit. Ordinance No. 37 of 1961 provides for the establishment of a consolidated revenue fund for the territory, the regulation of appropriations and payments thereout and the regular audit of the public accounts of the territory.

Digitized by Google

Immigration and Passport. Ordinance No. 5 of 1962 amends the Immigration and Passport Act, 1945, to provide for the refusal of entry to foreign diplomatic officers for security reasons.

Protection of Wages. Ordinance No. 6 of 1962 makes provision for the protection of wages of workers.

Income Tax. Ordinance No. 8 of 1962 grants wider relief from income tax to hotel proprietors who hold a licence under the Hotels Aid Ordinance, 1954 (No. 11 of 1954).

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

THE courts of law in the colony are:

(i) The Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands in its criminal and civil jurisdiction.

(ii) The British Caribbean Court of Appeal which came into existence on the dissolution of the Federal Supreme Court of the West Indies in 1962. This Court hears appeals from the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands.

(iii) The Court of Appeal of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands, which hears appeals from the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and from the Magistrate's Court.

(iv) The Court of Summary Jurisdiction which provides a relatively inexpensive and summary procedure for claims not exceeding $720.

(v) The Magistrate's Court which has a minor criminal and civil jurisdiction.

(vi) The Juvenile Court in which the Magistrate sits with the assessors to deal with juvenile offenders.

(vii) The Coroner's Court.

The Supreme Court sits twice a year in the Montserrat Circuit in the months of March and November and is presided over by a Judge of the Supreme Court resident in the colony of Antigua. The sitting of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction which is presided over by the same Judge usually takes place immediately after the Supreme Court.

Digitized by Google

Supreme Court

On the criminal side preliminary inquiries into indictable cases numbered eight in 1961 and 12 in 1962 as against 10 in 1960. The following table shows the classification of major crimes:

	1960	*1961*	*1962*
Murder	1	—	—
Larceny	4	1	10
Rape	2	3	—
Wounding	2	2	1
Attempting Suicide	—	1	—
Buggery	—	1	—
Escaping from Prison	1	—	1

The results of the cases were as follows:

	1960	*1961*	*1962*
Acquitted	—	4	4
Nolle Prosequei	—	—	1
Convicted:			
Imprisoned	11	2	5
Bound Over or put on Probation	1	2	2
Sentenced to Death	1	—	—
Fined	—	1	—

On the civil side of the Supreme Court two cases were heard in 1961, but there were none in 1962. In the Court of Summary Jurisdiction seven cases were heard in 1961 and nine in 1962.

Magistrate's Court, Plymouth and Cudjoe Head

A total of 1,194 adjudications were made in 1961, and 1,196 in 1962. In the Juvenile Court, 49 adjudications were made in 1961 and 64 in 1962. Offences against the person continued to predominate as the following table of persons charged shows:

	1961		*1962*	
	Adults	*Juveniles*	*Adults*	*Juveniles*
Homicide	—	—	—	—
Other Offences against the Person Act	269	10	276	14
Praedial Larceny	20	4	12	1
Malicious injuries to Property	18	1	13	1
Other Offences against Property	37	8	55	16
Offences against Revenue, Road and Municipal Laws	158	4	170	6
Miscellaneous Minor Offences	675	18	648	18
TOTAL	1,177	45	1,174	62

The persons brought before the Court were dealt with as follows:

	Adults		*Juveniles*	
	1961	*1962*	*1961*	*1962*
Acquitted	349	339	9	23
Convicted:				
Imprisoned	48	74	—	—
Fined	559	573	5	6
Bound over or put on Probation	10	51	1	5
Reprimanded and discharged	233	243	30	20
Caned	—	—	8	9

Digitized by Google

There were 178 civil processes filed in 1961 and 162 in 1962.

POLICE

The Police are part of the Antigua-Montserrat-Virgin Islands Force. The Montserrat division is under the command of an Assistant Superintendent of Police; its establishment was 35 all ranks and at the end of 1962 the strength was 31.

Traffic

The Traffic Department licensed 442 vehicles in 1961 and 476 in 1962. The following table shows the prosecutions instituted for breach of the Traffic Ordinance and Regulations, and traffic accidents for the last five years.

	1958	*1959*	*1960*	*1961*	*1962*
Number of prosecutions .	99	78	85	114	127
Number of traffic accidents.	131	41	41	59	53
Number of persons injured .	16	14	16	26	25
Number of persons killed .	—	1	—	1	1

Traffic signs were maintained during the period and additional signs were erected in the rural areas.

Crime

The C.I.D. continued its work in crime detection with good results.

There was an increase in such crimes as wounding and assault and petty larceny; but the incidence of praedial larceny was lower than in previous years owing to constant nightly patrols in cultivated areas.

The incidence of the main types of crime during the period 1960-62 was as follows:

	1960	*1961*	*1962*
Breaking . . .	19	9	15
Wounding and Assult .	111	97	183
Praedial Larceny .	12	19	14

PRISONS

The prison has two main blocks of buildings with cell accommodation for 30 males and six females. The Assistant Superintendent of Police is the officer in charge of prison discipline, and the staff comprises one keeper, eight warders and a matron.

In 1961 the number of persons admitted to prison was 80, of whom 40 had previous convictions. In 1962 the numbers were 95 and 43 respectively. Of those convicted in 1961, 46 were males and three females, while in 1962 the numbers were 64 males and two females. The daily average population was 12.89 in 1961 and 12.74 in 1962.

Digitized by Google

Male prisoners were employed in carpentry, tailoring, shoe-repairing, baking, breaking stones and wood cutting, and females were engaged in washing, sewing and cleaning.

In 1961 there were 29 offences committed by prisoners against Prison Regulations, whilst in 1962 there were 46. They were dealt with as follows:

	1961	*1962*
Diet and confinement to cell .	23	43
Loss of marks	2	—
Reprimanded	4	3
	29	46

In 1961 three males were admitted to the hospital, and in 1962 one male and one female prisoner. On the whole the general health of prisoners was very good.

All prisoners with sentences exceeding one month now earn remission at the rate of one-third of their sentence, provided that the remission does not reduce the period to less than 31 days. The Prisoners' Aid Board provides help for discharged prisoners who serve sentences of more than six months, should it be deemed necessary. Discharged prisoners who have been sentenced for six months and over are allowed 24 cents per week for the time served.

The average annual cost of each prisoner was $375, and the average annual cost of feeding each was $265.

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

ELECTRICITY

THE Electricity Department of the Government maintained a 24-hour service in Plymouth and Kinsale during the period. The supply was generated by three 40 kW. generators and one 80 kW. generator. The supply voltage is 230 volts A.C. on a frequency of 60 cycles. There was a steady increase in the consumption of electric current, and at the end of 1962 the number of consumers had risen to 856.

The purchase of a new 100 kW. generator in 1962 permitted the extension of the service to Old Road, Cork Hill and Salem.

The cold storage plant is under the control of the Electricity Department.

Digitized by Google

WATER SERVICES

These were maintained in good condition generally, and in many instances were substantially improved by the replacement of old pipe lines by new and larger pipes. A new pump was purchased to replace the old windmill pump supplying water to the St. George's Hill area.

PUBLIC WORKS

A programme of repair and maintenance work on Government buildings was carried out during the period. New buildings included the new Government Headquarters, a house for the Senior Medical Officer, and two houses for married police n.c.o's. A programme of construction of new latrines and bath-houses was also carried out.

FIRE SERVICES

A volunteer fire brigade, which comprised one fully trained officer and 20 volunteers, was maintained at a high state of efficiency during the period.

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

PLYMOUTH is the only seaport of entry and clearance for passengers. An open roadstead, the port has a concrete pier completed in 1960 with the assistance of Colonial Development and Welfare funds. This pier is equipped with a mobile crane with a lifting capacity of seven tons.

The *Federal Maple* and the *Federal Palm*, the two gift-ships from the Canadian Government to the former West Indies Federation, which were brought into service in 1960 maintained a regular inter-island shipping service during the period. A small motor vessel, the m.v. *Ripon*, owned and registered in Montserrat, operated a valuable and regular service between the Leeward Islands, Dominica, Barbados and British Guiana.

CIVIL AVIATION

Consideration was given to the possibility of improving the airport facilities so that larger planes could use the airport thus enabling more agricultural produce to be exported by air. It was felt that

Digitized by Google

development of the airport to accommodate aircraft such as the DC-3 would benefit the economy of the island. Consequently, an approach was made to the United States Aid Mission to The West Indies and Eastern Caribbean for advice. In August 1962 Mr. William A. Whittle, Airport Engineer from the United States Federal Aviation Agency, carried out the necessary survey: his report recommended a runway length of 3,600 feet and width of 60 feet, to accommodate DC-3 type aircraft.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The main roads are asphalted and total 60 miles. Secondary roads (which total some 58 miles) are unsurfaced, though during the period a steady programme of concreting or colas-surfacing the worst sections was undertaken.

The number of vehicles licensed was as follows:

	1961	*1962*
Motor Cars	196	236
Buses and Trucks	68	66
Motor Cycles	14	10
Pedal Bicycles	152	144
Tractors	12	20

POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The General Post Office is located in Plymouth and there are seven sub-post offices throughout the island. There is a letter box service supplemented by house-to-house delivery in Plymouth. Country mails are delivered at the sub-post offices by itinerant postmen, and people call for their letters.

The telephone system comprises a two-line metallic type with one central exchange. The programme of reconditioning the telephone lines to the country was continued during the period.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, and Information Services

PRESS

ONLY one newspaper, the *Montserrat Mirror*, a weekly English language paper, is published in the colony.

Digitized by Google

BROADCASTING

Radio Montserrat is a Government service run by volunteers who produce programmes to fill 14 hours per week. During the period the transmissions were of a high standard technically and the programmes proved very popular, both in Montserrat and in the neighbouring islands.

INFORMATION SERVICE

There is no Government information service. The public is kept informed of matters of public interest by use of the press and the broadcasting station.

Chapter 13: Local Forces

THE Defence Force is a part-time locally recruited unit of approximately one infantry platoon in strength, trained and equipped for internal security. Training was given in foot and arms drill, ceremonial drill, field craft, tactical exercises and range practices. Annual camps continued to be held.

Expenditure on the Defence Force over the last four years was as follows:

	$
1959	4,804
1960	5,210
1961	7,056
1962	7,456

Digitized by Google

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography

MONTSERRAT lies in 16° 45′ North latitude and 60° 15′ West longitude, 27 miles south-west of Antigua and some 40 miles north-west of Guadeloupe. It resembles a leg of ham in shape and has a maximum length of 11 miles and a maximum breadth of seven. Its area is 32½ square miles. The island is of volcanic origin and has three main mountain ridges—Silver Hill in the North (1,287 ft.), Central Hill in the middle of the island (2,499 ft.), and the Soufriere Hills in the south (3,002 ft.)

The climate of the island is tropical and healthy, the mean maximum temperature being 86° F. and the mean minimum temperature 73° F. The annual average rainfall is about 55 inches, the range being from 40 to 70 inches. The central part of the west coast receives more rain than the east coast. The north and south are dry. The incidence of rain is extremely variable, but the rainiest months are usually from September to November and the dry season usually from December to June. Montserrat is windswept for the greater part of the year.

Chapter 2: History

THE island was discovered by Columbus on his second voyage to the New World in 1493. It was colonised in 1632 when a number of Irishmen who formed a part of Thomas Warner's company came across from the neighbouring island of St. Christopher (St. Kitts) and made their homes there. It was captured by the French in 1664, restored to England in 1668, capitulated to the French again in 1782, and was finally ceded to Britain in 1783.

Chapter 3: Administration

AT the end of 1962 the Montserrat Legislative Council comprised the Administrator as President, two official members, seven elected members and one nominated member. There is adult suffrage under the provisions of the Constitution and Elections Ordinance, 1952.

Digitized by Google

The Executive Council consisted of the Administrator, who is President, two official members, the Chief Minister and two other Ministers and one member without portfolio.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

THE inspection of weights and measures was duly carried out as required under section 13(1) of the Weights and Measures Act (Cap. 1954). During 1961 and 1962, 120 and 100 weights and measures were tested by an authorised police officer. The standard measures recognised in the colony are as follows:

(*a*) Standard of length: the imperial yard.
(*b*) Standard of weight: the imperial pound.
(*c*) Standard of capacity: the imperial gallon.

Chapter 5: Reading List

GENERAL

ASPINALL, Sir A. *Pocket Guide to the West Indies.* Methuen, 1954.

BARCLAYS BANK D.C.O. *Leeward Islands: an economic survey.* 1962.

LAWRENCE, George E. *Thomas O'Garra: a West Indian local preacher.* Epworth Press, 1956.

O'LOUGHLIN, C. "The Economy of Montserrat; a national accounts study", *Social and Economic Studies,* Vol. 8, No. 2, 1959.

STARKEY, O. P. *Commercial Geography of Montserrat.* Bloomington, Indiana University, 1960.

The West Indies and Caribbean Year Book. Thomas Skinner.

WATKINS, F. H. *Handbook of the Leeward Islands.* West India Committee, 1924.

DESCRIPTIVE

ASPINALL, Sir A. *A Wayfarer in the West Indies.* West India Committee, 1928.

FROUDE, J. A. *The English in the West Indies.* Longman Green, 1888.

Digitized by Google

BURNS, Sir ALAN. *History of the British West Indies.* Allen and Unwin, 1954.

EDWARDS, BRYAN. *History of British Colonies in the West Indies.* John Stockdale, 1793.

PARRY, J. H. and SHERLOCK, P. M. *A short history of West Indies.* Macmillan, 1956.

SOUTHEY, Captain THOMAS. *Chronological history of the West Indies.* Longman, Rees, Orme Brown and Green, 1827.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

Obtainable, if in print, from Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Report of the Leeward and Windward Islands Constitutional Conference, London, June 1959. Cmnd. 804, 1959.

Report of the East Caribbean Federation Conference, 1962. Cmnd. 1746, 1962.

Federation of East Caribbean Territories: report of the Fiscal Commissioner. Cmnd. 1991, 1963.

Federation of East Caribbean Territories: report of the Civil Service Commission. Cmnd. 1992, 1963.

Obtainable from the Government Printer, Antigua.

Antigua, Montserrat and Virgin Islands Gazette. Antigua Government Printing Office, Weekly.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

APPENDIX

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Administrator, Mr. D. A. Wiles, O.B.E., President

Mr. H. A. Besson, Crown Attorney

Mr. T. E. A. Perkins, Financial Secretary

Mr. W. H. Bramble, Chief Minister and Minister for Trade and Production

Mr. B. W. Edwards, Minister for Social Services

Mr. D. C. Fenton, Minister of Public Works

Mr. J. W. Allen, Member without Portfolio.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The Administrator, Mr. D. A. Wiles, O.B.E., President

Mr. H. A. Besson, Crown Attorney

Mr. T. E. A. Perkins, Financial Secretary

Mr. W. H. Bramble, Chief Minister and Minister for Trade and Production

Mr. B. W. Edwards, Minister for Social Services

Mr. D. C. Fenton, Minister for Public Works

Mr. J. W. Allen, Member without Portfolio

Mr. M. E. Walkinshaw, Elected Member for the Central District

Miss M. R. Kelsick, Member for the Plymouth District

Mr. M. Dyer, Member for the Southern District

Mr. M. S. Osborne, O.B.E., Nominated Member.

Printed in England for Her Majesty's Stationery Office
by Wm. Pollard & Co. Ltd., Exeter

Wt. 1610 K9

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Other Publications in the Series

ANNUAL REPORTS

BASUTOLAND
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE
BR. GUIANA
BR. HONDURAS
BRUNEI
FIJI
GIBRALTAR
HONG KONG
MAURITIUS
SWAZILAND

BIENNIAL REPORTS

ADEN
ANTIGUA
BAHAMAS
BARBADOS
BERMUDA
BR. SOLOMON IS.
BR. VIRGIN IS.
CAYMAN IS.
DOMINICA
FALKLAND IS.
GAMBIA
GILBERT AND ELLICE IS.
GRENADA
MONTSERRAT
NEW HEBRIDES
ST. KITTS-NEVIS -ANGUILLA
ST. HELENA
ST. LUCIA
ST. VINCENT
SEYCHELLES
TONGA
TURKS AND CAICOS IS.

A standing order for selected Reports or for the complete series will be accepted by any one of the Bookshops of H.M. Stationery Office at the addresses overleaf. A deposit of £3 (three pounds) should accompany standing orders for the complete series.

Orders may also be placed through any bookseller

Digitized by Google

© *Crown copyright 1964*

Published for the Colonial Office by
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased from
York House, Kingsway, London w.c.2
423 Oxford Street, London w.1
13A Castle Street, Edinburgh 2
109 St. Mary Street, Cardiff
39 King Street, Manchester 2
50 Fairfax Street, Bristol 1
35 Smallbrook, Ringway, Birmingham 5
80 Chichester Street, Belfast 1
or through any bookseller

S.O. Code No. 58-1-23-62

Digitized by Google

G972.97
M769r

Please do not trim
Wide for folding
plates

Montserrat

1963 and 1964

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
PRICE 4s. 6d. NET

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

G 972.97
M769s

MONTSERRAT

Report for the years 1963 and 1964

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1966

Digitized by Google

THE UNIVERSITY
OF TEXAS
DEC 19 1966
THE LIBRARY

Digitized by Google

CONTENTS

PART I

		page
Chapter 1	General Review	3

PART II

Chapter 1	Population	5
2	Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation .	5
3	Public Finance and Taxation	9
4	Currency and Banking	11
5	Commerce	12
6	Production	13
7	Social Services	16
8	Legislation	21
9	Justice, Police and Prisons	22
10	Public Utilities and Public Works . . .	26
11	Communications	27
12	Press, Broadcasting and Information Services .	29
13	Local Forces	30

PART III

Chapter 1	Geography	31
2	History	31
3	Administration	31
4	Weights and Measures	32
5	Reading List	32

APPENDIX: Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils 34

Map at end

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

PART I

General Review

Constitutional

There were no constitutional changes during the period under review. However, Barbados, the Leeward (excluding the British Virgin Islands) and Windward Islands (excluding Grenada) continued to hold meetings to discuss plans for the formation of a Federation and a revised draft Federal Scheme was prepared by the Regional Council of Ministers. This revised Scheme, comprising decisions and compromises which had so far been reached during the past two years, was expected to be published early in 1965.

Economic

The years 1963–64 may be regarded as a turning point in the general progress of economic development of the territory.* In the agricultural sector of the economy, cotton continued to be the territory's principal money crop and strong vigorous growth was noted in all areas. In addition, there was marked expansion in the production of fruit and vegetables for export. During the period under review, peppers were exported to the United Kingdom, mangoes, solo pawpaws and tomatoes were air-lifted to Bermuda and Canada and negotiations were being undertaken to find new markets in the French and Netherland Antilles as well as Puerto Rico and the American Virgin Islands.

The encouragement of private enterprise and importation of foreign capital assisted in improved economic conditions of the territory. Real estate development continued on the west of the island, a golf course was opened and work commenced on the establishment of a large commercial radio station in the south of the island. Other improvements included the erection of a third bulk petroleum installation, a new hotel, a syrup factory at Lees and modernisation of the old mill at Parsons and the construction of a modern building was started by the Royal Bank of Canada to cope with the increase in volume of local commerce. Barclays Bank, D.C.O., also agreed to open a branch in the territory.

* The economic development in all sectors of the economy continued to expand during 1965/66 and accordingly the statistics contained in this report do not accurately reflect the present position.

Digitized by Google

Tourism also did much to assist in improving the economy of the island and its expansion was so rapid that consideration was being given to the appointment of a full time Secretary to the Tourist Board.

The number of visitors stopping over in Montserrat increased from 1,592 in 1962 to 2,700 in 1964 and the number of day visitors from 295 to 1,240.

External Communications

The Leeward Islands Air Transport Company continued to maintain their daily services from Blackburne Airfield and the five year Development Plan includes improvement and expansion of Blackburne Airfield to meet the growing demand for both passenger and freight services. The *Federal Maple* and *Federal Palm* of the West Indies Shipping Service still carried out fortnightly scheduled runs between the islands whilst the locally owned motor vessel *Ripon* operated a regular service between the Leeward Islands, Dominica, Barbados, British Guiana and Puerto Rico.

Important Visits

Important visitors to the colony during the period under review included H.M. The Queen Mother, H.R.H. Prince Philip, H.R.H. Princess Alice, Mr. Anthony Greenwood, Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. D. M. Smith, Head of Education Department in the Ministry of Overseas Development, Mr. D. K. Fogg, Australian Government Assistant Trade Commissioner; Miss Hilda Rae, Overseas Secretary of the Girls' Life Brigade; Miss F. H. Gwilliam, O.B.E., Woman Educational Adviser; Mr. N. M. Garrard, Overseas Liaison Officer, National Institute of Agricultural Engineering; Mr. E. G. Rowe, C.M.G., Supervisor of Overseas Service Courses at Oxford; Miss S. A. Ogilvie, Assistant Labour Adviser, Ministry of Overseas Development; Sir Norman Costa, K.C.M.G., British High Commission, Trinidad; Colonel Max Robinson, Secretary, West India Committee, London; Mr. Hugh C. Miller, Development Officer (Natural Resources), Caribbean Organisation, and Shi K. C. Nair, Commissioner of India, and Mrs. Nair.

Administration

Mr. D. R. Gibbs, C.M.G., D.S.O., was appointed Administrator in September 1964, succeeding Mr. D. A. Wiles, C.M.G., O.B.E., who retired from the civil service.

Digitized by Google

PART II

Chapter 1: Population

THE estimated population at the end of 1964 was 13,885 compared with 13,568 in 1963 and 12,945 in 1962. Statistics of births, deaths, arrivals and departures are given below:

	1962	*1963*	*1964*
Mid-year population, estimate	12,831	13,331	13,729
Total live births	324	341	364
Birth rate per 1,000	25.3	25.6	24.5
Deaths	128	117	107
Death rate per 1,000	9.98	8.78	7.79
Infant mortality rate	83.3	49.9	41.2

Arrivals and Departures

Arrivals

Year	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
1962	2,487	1,508	3,995
1963	2,858	1,916	4,774
1964	3,662	2,292	5,954

Departures

Year	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
1962	2,321	1,642	3,963
1963	2,720	1,655	4,375
1964	3,597	2,297	5,894

There were 44 marriages during 1964 compared with 40 in 1963.

Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

EMPLOYMENT

THE following table shows the labour force aged 14 years and over, classified by industry according to the 1960 census:

Agriculture	1,895
Forestry	3
Fishing	85
Manufacturing	337
Construction	452
Electricity and Water	27
Commerce	255
Transport	144
Services	855
	4,053

Digitized by Google

The main occupations continue to be agriculture, construction, repair and maintenance, professional and public services. Agricultural employment continued in its pattern of both wage employment and self employment, with many agricultural workers growing cash crops as well as food crops in small plots around their homes. There was a marked increase in the production and marketing of fruits and vegetables. This expansion was given impetus by the leasing of some 375 acres of land to an Antigua based company for the purpose of market gardening.

Emigration to the United Kingdom, mainly children of recent emigrants, continued on a reduced scale. Government's participation in the scheme for placing workers in agricultural employment in the United States of America and in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, continued; fifty men were engaged in 1963 for the United States and 40 in each year for St. Croix. However, by the end of 1964 it was apparent that employment opportunities from these sources were reducing. On the other hand, employment situations increased considerably in construction services due to real estate development. In addition four women were recruited each year for domestic work in Canada.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The wage rates in the principal occupations were as follows:

		1963	*1964*
Agriculture		*$ per day*	*$ per day*
Males	B	2.60	2.60
	A	3.00	3.00
Females		1.50	1.50
Government Departments (non-established workers)			
Unskilled:			
(i) Females and boys under 18 years other than apprentices		1.50	1.50
(ii) Males 18 years and over	B	2.60	2.60
	A	3.00	3.00
Semi-skilled		3.50	3.50
Skilled	B	5.20	5.20
	A	5.75	5.75
Road Foreman		15% above the maximum rate in the category the foremansupervises	15% above the maximum rate in the category the foremansupervises
Other Foremen		5.50	5.50
Fruit and Vegetable Graders		1.50	1.50
Power-plant Operators (Electricity, Ice and Cold Storage)	B	3.50	3.50
	A	4.50	4.50

Digitized by Google

		1963	1964
Building Trades			
Unskilled		—	$2.50 – $3.25
Semi-skilled		—	$4.00 – $5.00
Skilled	B	—	$5.00 – $8.00
	A	—	$6.00 – $8.00
Foremen		—	7% on the maximum skilled rate.

In agriculture, the task or piece-work system as well as the daily wage system are used. When workers are engaged on task work, payment for each task is at the specified daily rate.

Hours of work in agriculture and in Government are eight per day and work performed outside the normal day is paid for at the rate of time and one half.

COST OF LIVING

The following table shows the movements in the retail prices of the principal items of consumption:

Items	*1962 Dec.* $ c	*1963 Dec.* $ c	*1964 Dec.* $ c
Table butter (per lb. tin)	1.36	1.36	1.20
Cooking butter (per lb.)	64	64	64
Cheese (per lb.)	1.20	1.20	1.40
Eggs (each)	14	14	14
Fish, dried and salted, Canadian (per lb.)	56	60	60
Cornmeal (per lb.)	17	17	18
Flour (per lb.)	13	16	17
Lard (per lb.)	60	60	60
Meat, fresh (per lb.):			
Beef	*52 38 32	*75 60 32	*75 60 32
Mutton	50	60	60
Goat Meat	50	60	60
Pork	60	60	60
Meat, smoked and cured (per lb.)			
Bacon	1.80	1.80	2.00
Milk, condensed, Nestles (per tin)	42	42	44
Milk, fresh (per bottle)	10	12	12
Edible oil, cotton seed (per bottle)	85	85	85
Potatoes, imported (per lb.)	25	30	30
Rice, Demerara (per lb.):			
Super quality	17	19	19
Second quality	15	17	17
Sugar (per lb.):			
Barbados (washed)	20	32	25
Antigua (washed)	20	32	25
Leeward Islands (crystals)	13	21	16
Onions (per lb.)	22	30	40
Charcoal (per bag)	3.00	3.60	5.00

* according to cuts.

Digitized by Google

LABOUR RELATIONS

Relations between employers and workers continued to be satisfactory; this was an indication of better understanding between employers and workers' representatives.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The staff of the Labour Department consisted of a Labour Commissioner and one clerk. The duties of the Labour Commissioner are defined in the Labour Ordinance No. 5 of 1950 as follows:

> "The Labour Commissioner shall, subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, use his utmost endeavour to safeguard and promote the general welfare of workmen of the Presidency.
>
> Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision he shall—
>
> (*a*) regularly supervise and review the conditions of the various forms of employment of workmen which exist in the Presidency;
>
> (*b*) ensure the due performance of such laws as he may from time to time be required to enforce;
>
> (*c*) bring to the notice of the Administrator with reasonable speed every matter or thing, including the alleged or suspected breach of any laws, which in his opinion is or is likely to be prejudicial to the welfare of any description or class of workmen, or which is causing or likely to cause disagreement between any such workmen and the employers;
>
> (*d*) make recommendations to the Administrator from time to time as occasion demands for safeguarding and promoting the general welfare of the workmen."

The Labour Commissioner also advises employers and workers on procedure for fostering good relations and for the avoidance and settlement of disputes; he undertakes conciliation when disputes arise.

LABOUR ORGANISATION

During the period under review there were three registered workers' unions. The association of employers, mainly made up of estate proprietors, was disbanded due to the almost non-existence of estate agriculture in the territory.

Digitized by Google

LABOUR LEGISLATION

The principal labour legislation in force is as follows:

The Labour Ordinance, No. 5 of 1950

The Trade Unions Act, No. 16 of 1939

The Trade Disputes (Arbitration and Inquiry) Act, No. 17 of 1939

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, No. 5 of 1957

The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, No. 5 of 1938

The Employment of Children Prohibition Act, No. 5 of 1939

The Labour (Minimum Wage) Act, No. 27 of 1937

The Recruiting of Workers Act, No. 4 of 1941

The Emigrants Protection Act, No. 10 of 1929

The Protection of Wages Ordinance, No. 6 of 1962.

Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

COMPARATIVE figures of revenue and expenditure for 1961 to 1964 are given below:

Revenue	*1961* $	*1962* $	*1963* $	*1964* $
Customs	283,287	325,350	315,700	482,495
Internal Revenue, Excise and Licences	103,911	130,911	169,077	181,286
Fees of Court or Office, etc.	33,793	52,150	50,621	*11,375
Post Office, Telephones, etc.	107,004	157,031	140,058	212,081
Other	290,500	338,522	343,917	353,366
Total Local Revenue	818,495	1,003,964	1,019,373	1,240,603
Other (including U.K. Grant-in-Aid and C.D. & W. grants)	1,193,904	1,036,143	1,013,203	1,303,543
TOTAL	$2,012,399	$2,040,107	$2,032,576	$2,544,146

* Apparent decrease in Fees of Court revenue in 1964 is solely due to recasting of revenue heads and subheads in the Estimates.

Digitized by Google

Expenditure	*1961* $	*1962* $	*1963* $	*1964* $
Public Debt	17,478	17,597	17,360	17,379
Pensions	87,660	88,536	91,328	97,809
Federal Services	24,916	24,916	—	—
Administration	58,383	44,659	57,494	452,733
Agriculture	56,004	57,122	55,774	422,839
Water	32,574	20,868	19,259	20,059
Medical and Health	90,192	96,123	94,508	107,099
Hospital and Allied Services	142,161	133,611	128,368	140,101
Education	286,309	251,145	265,188	296,041
Post Office, Telephones, etc.	56,806	79,664	78,523	188,868
Public Works	409,370	273,273	224,385	227,812
Other	803,681	892,843	880,171	268,729
Total Local Expenditure	2,065,534	1,941,999	1,912,356	2,239,469
Other (including C.D. and W. Schemes)	137,612	147,889	140,199	*501,054
TOTAL	$2,203,146	$2,089,888	$2,052,555	$2,740,523

* The 1964 figure in fact relates to capital expenditure on projects financed with local and C.D. and W. funds. In previous years capital expenditure was not divorced from recurrent expenditure and was shown against the various departmental heads.

PUBLIC DEBT

The public debt at the end of 1963 stood at $273,469 and at the end of 1964 at $258,681.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Liabilities exceeded assets by $20,096 in 1963 and $22,640 in 1964.

TAXATION YIELDS

	1961 $	*1962* $	*1963* $	*1964* $
Import Duties	273,214	207,000	312,752	450,815
Export Duties	3,725	10,000	2,948	*199
Income Tax	65,955	70,000	96,498	90,312
Excise	11,616	15,000	15,724	13,573

* The fall-off in export duties in 1963/64 resulted from the closure of the tomato paste factory and a change in the vegetable and fruit trading pattern from the Government Marketing Depot to huckster exports which are not liable to export duty.

Import duties were derived mainly from foodstuffs, clothing, tobacco and cigarettes, spirits, sugar, motor vehicles, and building materials.

Commonwealth goods are imported into the island at preferential rates, and exports from the island enjoy reciprocal treatment in Commonwealth markets. Excise duty is collected on rum at the rate of $1.20 per imperial gallon.

Digitized by Google

Small taxation yields accrue from the following:

(*a*) stamp duties from deeds, negotiable instruments, death and estate duties and passports;
(*b*) land tax which is chargeable at $1 per acre on cultivable land or 30 cents per acre on non-cultivable land;
(*c*) motor vehicles in running order pay an annual licence of $10 each for motor cycles and for all other motor vehicles $20 each for private use and $21.50 each for commercial use;
(*d*) trade licences range from $12 to $100 per annum, payable half-yearly in advance, and liquor licences from $48 to $192 per annum, payable quarterly.

Income tax is imposed on the chargeable income of all individuals, i.e. gross income minus earned income relief, citizenship abatement, allowances for wife, children, dependent relatives, and life insurance, and is charged on a sliding scale of rates enumerated in the Income Tax Ordinance. Company tax is now 6*s.* 8*d.* in the £.

During 1964 the Government decided to revise the revenue structure of the colony. In particular it was decided that income tax would be abolished or greatly reduced and many taxes and licences which produced little or no net revenue could be repealed. To this end the Canadian Government was requested and agreed to provide an expert to advise on the changes necessary. It was also decided to bring in a new property tax and the secondment of an officer from the Barbados Government, to carry out the valuation of all property was arranged.

Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

THE currency in use is the unified currency of the British Caribbean Territories (Eastern Group) issued by the British Caribbean Currency Board, the notes in circulation being $1, $2, $5, $10, $20, and $100. Steps were put in hand in 1964 to introduce a new currency in 1965 for the Eastern Caribbean.

The dollar is fixed at 4*s.* 2*d.*, that is $4.80 to the £ sterling. The dollar system of accounting is used by Government, commercial houses and the Royal Bank of Canada, the only commercial bank in the island. During 1964 Barclays Bank D.C.O. agreed to open a Branch in Montserrat.

Digitized by Google

The Government Savings Bank had 3,118 depositors with $722,875 to their credit at 31st December 1963 and 3,412 depositors with $733,192 to their credit at 31st December 1964.

Chapter 5: Commerce

THE value of imports, exports (including re-exports) and re-exports for each of the five years from 1960 to 1964 is shown below:

Year	*Imports*	*Exports (including re-exports)*	*Re-exports*
	$	$	$
1960	1,971,240	272,558	16,594
1961	2,140,325	307,214	82,258
1962	2,538,440	546,789	147,243
1963	2,743,934	340,397	85,800
1964	4,020,154	321,836	43,070

The quantity and value of the main imports and exports during the period under review are as shown below:

Imports	*1963*		*1964*	
	Quantity	*Value*	*Quantity*	*Value*
		$		$
Flour (100 lb. bags)	14,434	136,341	15,258	177,431
Fish, dried salted (lb.)	163,050	55,002	178,436	74,432
Rice (180 lb. bags)	2,000	51,175	1,715	45,954
Sugar, unrefined (lb.)	654,671	78,268	665,540	74,401
Lumber (ft.)	275,413	70,892	489,626	132,134
Boots, Shoes and Slippers (pr.)	34,022	80,799	29,960	72,329
Cotton Piece Goods (sq. yd.)	71,362	36,636	74,436	40,799
Cheese (lb.)	28,822	17,159	35,143	23,931
Rum (gal.)	6,127	77,713	10,496	48,317
Motor Cars (no.)	64	148,389	86	195,780
Cement (lb.)	3,635,754	81,804	—	120,745
Cotton Manufacture	—	39,006	—	24,174
Rayon Piece Goods (sq. yd.)	11,234	7,987	7,389	2,250
Electrical Equipment	—	103,497	—	51,154
Soap and Cleansing Preparations (lb.)	88,641	36,795	133,853	46,084
Metal Manufactures	—	79,295	—	89,407
Medicine and Drugs	—	45,372	—	30,195

Exports	*1963*		*1964*	
	Quantity	*Value*	*Quantity*	*Value*
		$		$
Carrots (lb.)	11,777	1,290	11,570	1,924
Tomatoes (lb.)	63,275	12,474	137,949	12,360
Other Vegetables (lb.)	65,964	11,752	10,388	1,292
Bananas (stems)	21,453	16,874	4,770	5,068
Raw Lime Juice (gal.)	5,758	11,401	14,150	19,650
Cotton Lint, Stained (lb.)	—	—	4,000	712
Cotton Lint, Clean (lb.)	133,200	160,960	150,000	195,000
Cotton Seed Cake and Meal (tons)	129	8,578	½	33

Digitized by Google

Chapter 6: Production

LAND

THE best estimate available of the distribution of land in the colony is:

	Acres
Cultivable and arable land	9,500
Pasture land	3,000
Forest and other	8,800
Urban	500
Development (real estate)	1,200
Screes, ghauts and cliffs	1,320
TOTAL	24,320

Of this total, it is estimated that some 10,500 acres are owned by estates (much of which is rented out to farmers), and the remainder is owned and managed by peasant proprietors. Land is held freehold under the Title by Registration Act. The share-cropping system in connection with cotton cultivation has been replaced by the rental system.

Weather

Rainfall figures at the Grove Agricultural Station for the past four years have been:

	Inches
1961	55.11
1962	62.95
1963	68.89
1964	55.50

The annual average for the last half-century is about 60.5 inches.

AGRICULTURE

During the period under review, the Agricultural Department was managed by a Director of Agriculture, assisted by a Chief Extension Officer and an Agricultural Engineer, all of whom were appointed under Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes. Subordinate personnel comprised seven Agricultural Assistants, one Banana Officer under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme, a Manager of the Otway Settlement and four clerks. About mid-1964, a Livestock Officer joined the Department but the senior Agricultural Assistant and the Manager of Otway Settlement left. The Chief Extension Officer also completed his contract service at that time.

Digitized by Google

Cotton

The following acreages were cultivated by peasants and estate:

1960–61	*1961–62*	*1962–63*	*1963–64*
1,250	1,982	1,125	1,152

Yields of cotton over the last four crops were as follows:

	1960–61	*1961–62*	*1962–63*	*1963–64*
Total Clean Lint (lb.) . .	152,800	167,995	133,200	150,000
Clean Lint per acre (lb.) .	140	135	134	130
Stained Lint % of total crop .	7	9	9	10

The 1963-64 cotton crop was sold in Britain at a price of $1.30 per pound lint.

Vegetables

The production of vegetables began to expand in 1963 and continued into 1964. This expansion was stimulated by the ready market being available in Antigua and neighbouring islands due to the growth of the tourist industry. Markets were also available in Canada and Bermuda where some fruits and vegetables were sent by air. In addition, some 375 acres of land were leased in 1964 by Belvedere Farms, Antigua, for the purpose of market gardening.

The table below shows the trade in those vegetables for which statistics are available. In fact, most of the vegetable trade is conducted by hucksters and no manifesting of cargo is carried out. The biggest exports, if figures were available, would have been in dasheens and sweet potatoes.

	1961	*1962*	*1963*	*1964*
Carrots (lb.) . . .	2,815	581	5,651	31,690
Tomatoes (lb.) . . .	34,874	61,104	101,090	137,949
Eschallots (lb.) . . .	2,634	—	1,110	2,118

Bananas

The banana industry showed encouraging signs of improvement during 1963 and 1964 but the lack of feeder roads curtailed further expansion. By the end of 1963 the acreage under bananas was 220. However, both in 1963 and 1964 the industry suffered some reverses due to high winds during the hurricane season. In addition, the generally dry conditions prevailing in 1964 had their ill-effects on the industry. However, replanting of about 25 acres was made possible by the importation of suckers from Guadeloupe. Exports to Britain were valued at $24,972 in 1963 and $19,666 in 1964. Towards the end of 1964 the banana growers formed themselves into a Banana Growers' Association and sought affiliation with the Windward Islands Banana Association.

Digitized by Google

Land Settlement

The Agricultural Department continued operating three land settlements at Otway, Galways and Trants. In addition, 174 acres of Lees, Dagenham and Richmond Estates were taken over by Government on short term lease for sub-letting to peasants.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The general health of livestock throughout the island was good, the Government maintaining its stud centres at Parson's, Brade's and Trant's. However, the export of cattle to the neighbouring French islands declined during the period, due no doubt to the increase in local demand. A Livestock Officer joined the staff of the Agricultural Department in July 1964 and during the year a small export trade in choice cuts of beef and pork was inaugurated.

Farmers showed some interest in pig and poultry rearing and by the end of 1964 three small commercial poultry farms were established.

The number of animals recorded as slaughtered in public abattoirs is shown below. However, a considerable number of animals, particularly goats, are slaughtered privately and no statistics are available.

	1963	*1964*
Cattle . . .	325	433
Goats . . .	60	58
Sheep . . .	52	50
Pigs . . .	97	102

During 1963, 57 head of cattle valued at $1,254 were exported to the neighbouring French islands. There were no exports in 1964.

Hides and skins exported during the period under review were valued at $2,768.

FORESTRY

Protection of forests was maintained by the forest rangers attached to the Agricultural Department under the supervision of Agricultural Assistants.

INDUSTRIES

The Montserrat Company Limited continued to operate its small factory for the production of edible oil, cotton-seed meal and cake used for stock feed and as fertilizer. The Government Ginnery continued operations during the period as also did the Farrell's Syndicate's rum distillation plant. The Sugar Mill at the Otway Settlement produced syrup for export. Towards the end of 1963 a

Digitized by Google

small meat processing plant operated by external interests was brought into use. In addition a small furniture working factory commenced operations in 1964. The tomato paste processing plant erected by the Leeward Islands Company in 1960 ceased operations in 1963.

Substantial income tax and customs duties relief is given under the Development Incentives Ordinance (passed in 1964) to encourage the establishment and expansion of development enterprises in the colony and to provide for the granting of certain tax concessions to companies engaging in such enterprises.

Chapter 7: Social Services

EDUCATION

Primary Education

There are 15 primary schools in the colony: 12 Government schools, one Roman Catholic (grant-aided) school, one Seventh Day Adventist (unassisted) school, and one small fee-paying private school. Attendances over the past three years have been as follows:

	Enrolment	*Average Attendance*	*Percentage*
1962 . . .	3,025	2,755	91
1963 . . .	3,038	2,827	93
1964 . . .	2,835	2,617	92

Primary education is compulsory from 5 to 14 years and is free for all children between 5 and 15 years. The courses in the primary schools lead to the school leaving certificate examination of the Department of Education. Consideration is being given to the teaching of woodwork, handicrafts and home economics since teachers have completed training in these subjects, and this does much to broaden the basis of education and to maintain the interest of the children.

Secondary Education

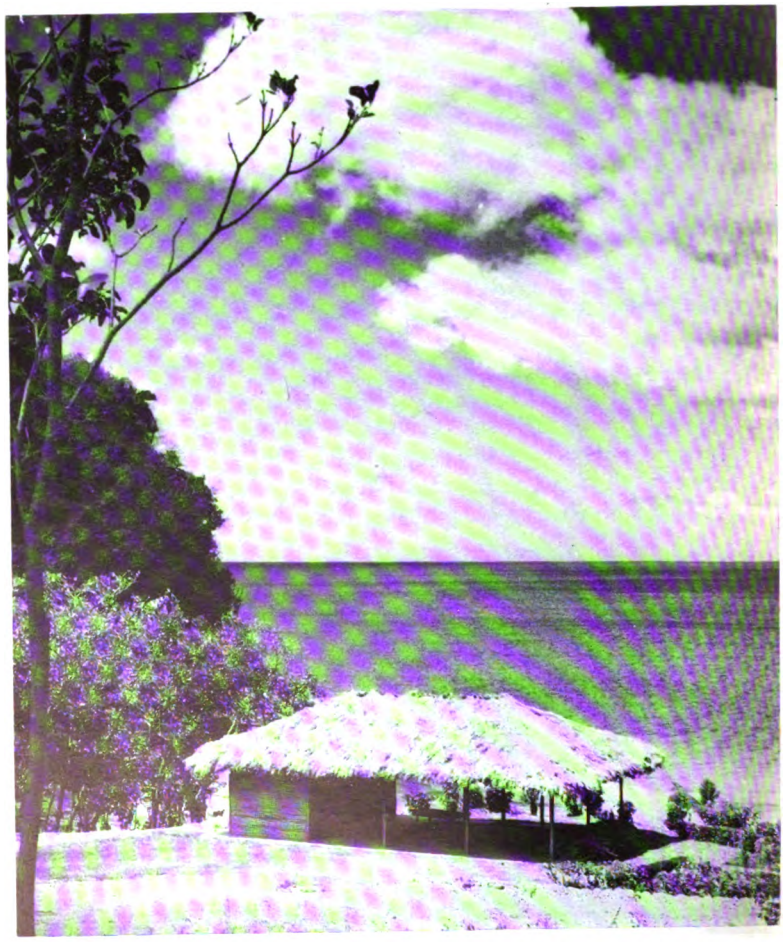
There is one secondary school in the colony, situated in Plymouth. It is divided into two sections, a senior school and a grammar school. In the former, students receive a general education with a strong infusion of practical subjects. Pupils are admitted to this section from the age of 11 years and follow a course lasting four years. Pupils are specially selected for this section by means of a competitive examination and on the recommendation of a selection

Digitized by Google

H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, chatting with members of the Agricultural Department staff at the Grove Botanic Station, during his visit to Montserrat in November 1964

H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, talking to tractor drivers at the Grove Botanic Station. These six tractors were provided by the U.K. Freedom From Hunger Campaign Committee.

Digitized by Google



Woodlands' Beach House viewed from the road ***and facing the Caribbean sea***

Digitized by Google

Woodlands' Beach and Beach House

***One of the** "retiree" houses built on lands of the Montserrat Real Estate Co. Ltd.*

Digitized by Google

Road gang at work in the Olveston sub-division of the Montserrat Real Estate Co. Ltd.

Road gang at work in the Woodlands' sub-division of the Montserrat Real Estate Co. Ltd.

Digitized by Google

committee. No tuition fee is paid in this section. In the grammar school section the normal division into forms is maintained, and the age for admission is 10 years. Candidates are admitted after a competitive entrance examination. Pupils in this section pay both a tuition fee and a games fee.

The principal is responsible for the internal organisation, management and discipline of the school. A secondary school committee advises on policy and management.

Enrolment at the school was 211 in 1963 and 267 in 1964. Attendance is practically 100 per cent.

The senior school pupils follow a course which includes the three R's, West Indian history and geography, a general introduction to English literature, the fundamentals of play acting, and a practical grounding in music. In addition, a technical wing was constructed in 1963 which provides courses in woodwork for boys, and in home economics, needlework, straw work and typing for girls. During 1964 shorthand was introduced. From the second year, the pupils are taught Spanish, with special emphasis on the spoken language. The education provided for the grammar school section is of the academic type leading to the Advanced General Certificate of Education examinations. Chemistry is taught up to Advanced General Certificate of Education standard and Spanish has been added to the modern language group.

Of the 55 scholarships held in the grammar school section at the end of 1964, 42 were provided by the Government, two by the Montserrat Company Limited, four by the old students of the Montserrat Secondary School, four by the Montserrat Progressive Society in New York and one each by the American Caribbean Scholarship Fund, the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Kinsale Parent Teachers' Association.

The extra-curricular activities continue to thrive. Apart from the normal sports and athletics, there is a literary and debating society, a dramatic society and a Cadet Corps. During the period under review a new society "La Société Française" was formed to encourage the speaking of French and to develop a greater interest in the French and their customs.

Teacher Training

The Leeward Islands Teachers' Training College at Golden Grove, Antigua, maintained by the four Governments of the Leeward Islands, provided one- and two-year training courses for teachers. During the period under review, three teachers graduated from training institutions; and at the end of 1964 there were four Primary

Digitized by Google

School teachers attending the College in Antigua and three teachers and the Inspector of Schools were on bursaries for study in the United Kingdom under the Commonwealth Bursary Scheme.

During 1963 the services of a Teacher Trainer were made available by the Canadian Government under its Aid Programme to assist in teacher training and by the end of 1964 plans were well established for nine Canadian teachers to establish an *ad hoc* teacher training scheme (a C.D. and W. scheme pays for substitute teachers) and also to improve industrial arts education.

General

The school dentist made regular monthly visits to schools for lectures, inspection, extraction and treatment of teeth, and there has been an improvement in the dental health of the children.

UNICEF milk has been most valuable in providing, along with yeast biscuits bought with local funds, a mid-morning snack for needy children.

Expenditure on education over the four years from 1961 to 1964 was as follows:

	1961	*1962*	*1963*	*1964*
	$	$	$	$
Primary Education . . .	227,495	206,180	210,238	239,949
Secondary Education . .	58,814	62,823	62,647	56,292
	286,309	269,003	272,885	296,241

Adult Education

Much voluntary work has been done in the field of adult education. In addition the Extra-Mural Department of the University of the West Indies extended its programme of classes throughout the island and consideration was being given by the University to providing a Resident Tutor in Montserrat.

Library

The Library services continued to play a significant role in the life of the community. However, the need for a reference room and a children's section is great. Many persons avail themselves of the library facilities and it was found necessary to inaugurate deposit centres in the rural districts for the use of the villagers. This expansion has been made possible by the donation of several thousands of volumes by the Ranfurly Library in the United Kingdom and the English Speaking Union of Canada as well as from visitors to the island.

Digitized by Google

At the end of 1964, the registered membership was 1,858 compared with 1,781 at the end of 1963. The total stock of books was 19,984 and the circulation 20,752 at the end of 1964 compared with 13,570 and 20,213 in 1963.

Children attending town schools are allowed to use the Public Library which has a children's section, the membership being 908 at the end of 1964.

PUBLIC HEALTH

During the period under review, the colony continued to enjoy as in previous years, freedom from any serious epidemic disease. There were minor epidemics of chicken pox and there was a decrease in the number of cases of influenza although there was an increase in the number of cases of pneumonia. The figures for Infant Mortality rate shown under Chapter 1, Population, are indicative of an overall improvement in Public Health standards.

The routine welfare clinics for infants, pre-school children, expectant and nursing mothers, and the District Medical Officers' clinics were continued throughout the period under review.

The distribution throughout the health centres organisation of dried skimmed milk powder made available by UNICEF was continued. Expectant and nursing mothers, infants and pre-school children received this valuable supplement intended to combat dietary deficiencies and malnutrition. This has proved to be a valuable supplement to the general low-protein diet, and also an incentive to attend the clinics.

The campaign to eradicate the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito (yellow fever) continued with assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare funds and advice from WHO/PAHO.

Early in 1964, *Aedes Aegypti* mosquitoes were again found in the island and the eradication programme was intensified in the areas found positive. However, at the end of the year, the index of infestation in the affected areas had reduced considerably and there were indications that these areas should soon be negative. The position with regard to infestation of other localities in the island is not known and it is hoped that a complete island-wide survey will soon be undertaken to determine the position.

During the period, Montserrat had visits from a team of PAHO/UWI Consultants, headed by Professor Stewart; Miss Nita Barrow, and Miss Marie Matthews, W.H.O. Nursing Consultants; Dr. K. M. Patwary, W.H.O. Statistical Consultant; Mr. W. Pakeman, Chief Records Officer at the University Hospital, Jamaica; and Dr. H. H. Insel, Ophthalmologist and President of the Foundation for International Medical Services, Inc., America.

Digitized by Google

Diseases

The incidence of certain infectious and systemic disease is indicated in the succeeding sub-paragraphs:

(*i*) *Pulmonary Tuberculosis.* Eight cases were reported during 1963 and two in 1964. All were admitted to the Glendon Hospital Isolation Ward for treatment. There was one death from this disease during 1964.

(*ii*) *Disease of the sense organs.* One hundred and thirty cases were treated in 1963 and 146 cases in 1964.

(*iii*) *Mental illness.* As there is now no observation ward at the Glendon Hospital, mental cases not amenable to treatment in the general ward of the hospital are admitted for observation to Her Majesty's Prison and, if certified, are transferred to the Mental Hospital at Antigua. There were eight mental cases for the period under review.

(*iv*) *Diseases of the circulation.* One hundred and fifteen cases were treated in 1963 and 33 in 1964, hypertension being responsible for the majority of cases.

(*v*) *Diseases of the respiratory system.* There were 154 cases in 1963 and 80 in 1964.

(*vi*) *Diseases of the digestive system.* Twenty-nine cases, including seven of gastro-enteritis and colitis, were treated in 1963, the corresponding figures in 1964 being 23 and 13.

(*vii*) *Diseases of infancy.* Thirty-three cases were treated in 1963, the corresponding figure being 15 in 1964.

Medical, Public Health and Sanitary Services

The Senior Medical Officer administers the medical, public health and sanitary services, including the Glendon Hospital (69 beds), three health centres and seven health outposts at which facilities are provided for the examination and treatment of patients suffering from general medical and surgical conditions as well as for pre-natal and infant welfare clinics and prevention against typhoid fever, whooping cough and poliomyelitis. There is also a mid-wifery service (ten midwives on the establishment); a sanitary service for the inspection of premises, food, etc., and the control of insect-borne diseases; a public market, an infirmary for the poor and aged, medical care at the prison, port health supervision, dental inspection and attention at the primary schools.

The colony is divided into two medical districts. The Medical Superintendent of the Glendon Hospital is also Medical Officer of the town district, while another district Medical Officer takes care of the country areas.

Digitized by Google

The establishment of the Glendon Hospital during the period comprised the Medical Superintendent, a nursing sister (matron), one charge nurse, six staff nurses, 14 student nurses, one dispenser, a laboratory technician, and a housekeeper. Training of nurses and midwives is undertaken locally under the supervision of the matron. During the latter half of 1964 the staff was assisted by the services of a nursing sister provided under the Graduate Voluntary Service Overseas Scheme.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The Public Assistance Committee administered the Government grant, supplemented by voluntary contributions for providing weekly relief allowances to the aged, the poor and needy. The Government also maintained the infirmary where the aged and infirm who have no means of subsistence or no one to care for them are looked after.

The local branches of the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade continued their valuable activities. The youth movements, i.e. Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Junior Red Cross and Church groups of young people, reported satisfactory progress during the period under review.

There are no probation services in the colony.

Chapter 8: Legislation

IMPORTANT legislation enacted during the period under review was as follows:

Finance and Audit. Ordinance No. 4 of 1963 provides for more suitable and stringent methods for the control of public funds.

Criminal Procedure Act. Ordinance No. 5 of 1963 seeks to rectify an irregularity whereby provision was formerly made by which a person convicted before the Supreme Court could be ordered to pay costs and in default of payment, the Registrar of the Court fixed term of imprisonment. This Ordinance now confers the power of imprisonment on the Court itself.

Labour. Ordinance No. 13 of 1963 makes specific provision empowering the Labour Commissioner actively to prosecute any charges in respect of laws, the due performance of which he is required to ensure and also to allow him to be represented at such prosecution by an officer in his department.

Digitized by Google

Customs Duties. Ordinance No. 17 of 1963 allows personal household effects to the value of $3,000 to be imported duty free but subject to payment of duty if sold or disposed of within two years of importation and provided that the importer has been resident elsewhere than in the colony for at least two years previous to the importation.

Land and Buildings Tax. Ordinance No. 3 of 1964 repeals and replaces the law relating to land and buildings.

Registration of Business Names. Ordinance No. 4 of 1964 makes provision for the registration of firms and persons carrying on business under business names and for persons connected therewith.

Development Incentives. Ordinance No. 9 of 1964 encourages the establishment and expansion of development enterprises in the colony and provides for the granting of certain tax concessions to companies engaging in such enterprises.

Town and Country Development Planning Control. Ordinance No. 10 of 1964 seeks to make provision for the orderly and progressive development of land in the colony.

Title by Registration Act. Ordinance No. 11 of 1964 increases the fees payable under the provisions of section 156 of the Title by Registration Act (Cap. 99).

Stamp Act. Ordinance No. 12 of 1964 increases the stamp duties payable on the conveyance and transfer on sale of any property under the provision of the Stamp Act (Cap. 135).

Registration and Records Act. Ordinance No. 13 of 1964 increases the fees payable under the provisions of the Registration and Records Act (Cap. 20).

Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

The courts of law in the colony are:

(i) The Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands in its criminal and civil jurisdiction.

(ii) The British Caribbean Court of Appeal which came into existence on the dissolution of the Federal Supreme Court of the West Indies in 1962.

(iii) The Court of Appeal of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands, which hears appeals from the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and from the Magistrate's Court.

Digitized by Google

(iv) The Court of Summary Jurisdiction which provides a relatively inexpensive and summary procedure for claims not exceeding $720.

(v) The Magistrate's Court which has a minor criminal and civil jurisdiction.

(vi) The Juvenile Court in which the Magistrate sits with the assessors to deal with juvenile offenders.

(vii) The Coroner's Court.

The Supreme Court sits twice a year in the Montserrat Circuit in the months of March and November and is presided over by a Judge of the Supreme Court resident in the colony of Antigua. The sitting of the Court of Summary Jurisdiction which is presided over by the same Judge usually takes place immediately after the Supreme Court.

Supreme Court

On the criminal side preliminary inquiries into indictable cases numbered five in 1963 and 15 in 1964 as against 12 in 1962. The following table shows the classification of major crimes.

	1962	*1963*	*1964*
Murder	—	—	—
Larceny	10	3	2
Rape	—	2	—
Indecent Assault	—	—	2
Wounding	1	1	3
Concealment of birth	—	—	1
Attempting Suicide	—	—	—
Causing Death by Danger Driving	—	1	—
Buggery	—	—	—
Escaping from Prison	1	—	—

The results of the cases were as follows:

	1962	*1963*	*1964*
Acquitted	4	3	5
Nolle Prosequi	1	—	3
Convicted:			
Imprisoned	5	3	8
Bound Over or put on Probation	2	—	1
Sentenced to Death	—	—	—
Fined	—	—	1

On the civil side of the Supreme Court, one case was heard in 1963 and 11 cases in 1964. In the Court of Summary Jurisdiction, eight cases were heard in 1963 and nine cases in 1964.

Magistrate's Court, Plymouth and Cudjoe Head

A total of 1,145 adjudications was made in 1963 and 1,135 in 1964. In the Juvenile Court, 57 adjudications were made in 1963 and 12 in 1964. Offences against the person continued to predominate as the following table of persons charged shows:

Digitized by Google

	1963		1964	
	Adults	*Juveniles*	*Adults*	*Juveniles*
Homicide	—	—	—	—
Other Offences against the Person Act	295	23	301	7
Praedial Larceny	13	7	20	—
Malicious injuries to Property	13	2	12	—
Other Offences against Property	57	11	73	2
Offences against Revenue, Road and Municipal Laws	134	—	155	—
Miscellaneous Minor Offences	633	14	574	3
TOTAL	1,145	57	1,135	12

The persons brought before the Court were dealt with as follows:

	Adults		*Juveniles*	
	1963	*1964*	*1963*	*1964*
Acquitted	358	331	15	3
Convicted:				
Imprisoned	68	38	—	—
Fined	549	478	4	2
Bound over or put on Probation	61	91	14	—
Reprimanded and discharged	134	198	9	7
Caned	—	—	15	—

There were 99 civil processes filed in 1963 and 163 in 1964.

POLICE

The Police are part of the Antigua-Montserrat-Virgin Islands Force. The Montserrat division is under the command of an Assistant Superintendent of Police; its establishment was 35 all ranks and at the end of 1964 the strength was 32.

Traffic

The Traffic Department licensed 499 vehicles in 1963 and 567 in 1964. The following table shows the prosecutions instituted for breach of the Traffic Ordinance and Regulations and traffic accidents for the last five years.

	1960	*1961*	*1962*	*1963*	*1964*
Number of prosecutions	85	114	127	72	77
Number of traffic accidents	41	59	53	44	64
Number of persons injured	16	26	25	31	20
Number of persons killed	—	1	1	1	—

Traffic signs were maintained during the period and additional signs were erected in the rural areas.

Crime

The C.I.D. continued its work in crime detection with good results.

Digitized by Google

There was an increase in such crimes as larceny and wounding and assault, but the incidence of wounding and assault was lower than in 1962.

The incidence of the main types of crime during the period 1962-64 was as follows:

	1962	*1963*	*1964*
Breaking	15	19	14
Wounding and Assaults	183	137	179
Praedial Larceny	14	10	8

PRISON

The prison has two main blocks of building with cell accommodation for 30 males and six females. The keeper is now officer in charge of prison discipline and the rest of the staff comprises eight warders and a matron.

In 1963, the number of persons admitted to prison was 67 of whom 56 had previous convictions. In 1964, the numbers were 79 and 27 respectively. Of those convicted in 1963, 63 were males and four females. There were no females admitted to the prison in 1964. The daily average population was 11.23 in 1963 and 9.6 in 1964.

Male prisoners were employed in carpentry, tailoring, shoe repairing, baking and wood cutting and females were engaged in washing, sewing and cleaning.

In 1963 there were 48 offences committed by prisoners against Prison Regulations, whilst in 1964 there were 33. They were dealt with as follows:

	1963	*1964*
Diet and confinement to cell	23	21
Loss of marks	—	—
Reprimanded	25	12
TOTAL	48	33

On the whole, the general health of prisoners was very good.

All prisoners with sentences exceeding one month now earn remission at the rate of one-third of their sentence, provided that the remission does not reduce the period to less than 31 days. The Prison Aid Board provides help for discharged prisoners who serve sentences of more than six months, should it be deemed necessary. Discharged prisoners who have been sentenced for six months and over are allowed 24 cents per week for the time served.

The average annual cost of each prisoner was $472 of which the average annual cost of feeding each was $360.

Digitized by Google

Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

ELECTRICITY

THE Electricity Department of the Government maintained a 24-hour service in Plymouth, Kinsale, Old Road, Cork Hill and Salem during the period. The supply voltage is 230 volts A.C. on a frequency of 60 cycles. There was a steady increase in the consumption of electric current, and at the end of 1964 the number of consumers had risen to 864 with 985,000 units of electrical power being generated.

The advent of Radio Antilles, requiring 2.5 million units a year, and the increased demand resulting from the retiree house-building programme made it apparent that the existing small power stations at Belham River and Plymouth were inadequate, and by the end of 1964 Government had been provided by the Crown Agents with plans for a completely new 2,250 kW. power station and distribution system estimated to cost over $1 million. This will permit electrification of the whole island. It is expected that construction of the new project should commence towards the end of 1965, and in the meantime it has been decided to purchase an additional 250 kW. generator to tide the undertaking over the period until the new power station is commissioned.

The cold storage plant is under the control of the Electricity Department.

WATER SERVICES

These were maintained in good condition generally, and in many instances were substantially improved by the replacement of old pipe lines by new and larger pipes. A new catchment was constructed at Ryan's Spring and pipe-lines were laid to Gallway's to improve the supply to the Southern District. New catchments were also constructed at St. John's and Corbett Springs thus augmenting the distribution system in the North and East. Active consideration was being given to harness all surface water in order to meet an ever-increasing demand.

Digitized by Google

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND MINOR WORKS

A programme of repair and maintenance work on Government buildings was carried out during the period. Two new nests of letter boxes were installed at the General Post Office in Plymouth and a programme of construction of bathrooms and bedrooms for the midwives' quarters was also carried out. Three buildings were constructed for use as Government officers' quarters during the period under review.

FIRE SERVICES

A volunteer fire brigade, which comprised one fully trained officer and 24 volunteers, was maintained at a high state of efficiency during the period. A small fire pump attached to a Land Rover is maintained at Harris Police Station for use at Blackburne Airport on the arrival and departure of aeroplanes.

Chapter 11: Communications

SHIPPING

PLYMOUTH is the only seaport of entry and clearance for passengers. An open roadstead, the port has a concrete pier completed in 1960 with the assistance of Colonial Development and Welfare funds. This pier is equipped with a mobile crane with a lifting capacity of seven tons.

The *Federal Maple* and the *Federal Palm*, the two gift-ships from the Canadian Government to the former West Indies Federation, which were brought into service in 1960, maintained a regular inter-island shipping service during the period. A small motor vessel, the M.V. *Ripon*, owned and registered in Montserrat, operated a valuable and regular service between the Leeward Islands, Dominica, Barbados, British Guiana and Puerto Rico.

In 1963, 313 steamers, motor vessels and sailing craft entered the Port of Plymouth landing a total of 1,056 passengers and 9,047 tons of cargo. Corresponding figures in 1964 were 564 vessels landing 1,217 passengers and 12,633 tons of cargo. In 1963, 311 vessels cleared from Plymouth embarking 533 passengers and loading 1,388 tons of cargo. In 1964 the figures were 554 vessels clearing the port with 974 passengers and 526 tons of cargo.

Digitized by Google

CIVIL AVIATION

Plans are still being carried out for the improvement of airport facilities so that larger planes could use the airport, thus enabling more agricultural produce to be exported by air. It was felt that development of the airport to accommodate aircraft such as the Avro 748 would benefit the economy of the island and after the necessary survey was carried out, a runway length of 3,250 feet and width of 80 feet to accommodate this type of aircraft, was recommended. However, in view of the increased traffic and landing weights of aircraft scheduled for Montserrat, a further survey was undertaken in 1964 with the assistance of the United Kingdom Ministry of Public Building and Works with a view to the bituminous surfacing of the runway. The work is scheduled for 1965/66 and will cost approximately $300,000.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The main roads are asphalted and total 80 miles. Secondary roads (which total some 70 miles) are unsurfaced, though during the period a steady programme of concreting or colas-surfacing the worst sections was undertaken. During the latter half of 1963 roads and bridges suffered severe damage due to Hurricane 'Cleo'. However, by the middle of 1964 the bridge at St. Patrick's in the south and Trant's Bridge leading to the airport had been restored. Due to increased traffic on the roads attention is being given to the widening and surfacing of the more used ones, especially those approaching Plymouth from the rural areas and those leading to the airport.

The number of vehicles licensed was as follows:

	1963	*1964*
Motor Cars	257	334
Buses and Trucks	85	97
Motor Cycles	9	8
Pedal Bicycles	129	108
Tractors	19	20
TOTAL	499	567

POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The General Post Office is located in Plymouth and there are seven sub-post offices throughout the island. There is a letter box service supplemented by house-to-house delivery in Plymouth. Country mails are delivered at the sub-post offices by itinerant postmen and people call for their letters.

Digitized by Google

The telephone system comprises a two-line metallic type with one central exchange. A sub-exchange was installed in Harris Village to provide a more satisfactory service to the eastern side of the island. 100 new subscribers were connected during 1964, making a total of 328 connections. The overseas radio-telephone service maintained by Cable and Wireless (W.I.) Ltd. was extended to a 24-hour basis, and outgoing calls averaged 400 per month in 1964.

In view of the increasing demand for an expanded and more efficient telephone system, negotiations were commenced with Cable and Wireless with a view to the installation by this firm of an up-to-date automatic island wide dial system.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, and Information Services

PRESS

ONLY one newspaper, the *Montserrat Mirror*, a weekly English language paper, is published in the colony.

BROADCASTING

Radio Montserrat is a Government service run by a staff of three Government paid workers and assisted by volunteers, who produce programmes to fill 50 hours per week. During the period, the transmissions were of a high standard technically and the programmes proved very popular, both in Montserrat and the neighbouring islands.

During 1964 work commenced on the commercial Radio Antilles medium wave transmitter station. The company is erecting a 200 kW. transmitter and also a 20 kW. one, both of which should be commissioned in 1965.

INFORMATION SERVICE

There is no Government information service. The public is kept informed of matters of public interest by use of the press and the broadcasting station.

Digitized by Google

Chapter 13: Local Forces

THE Defence Force is a part-time locally recruited unit of approximately one infantry platoon in strength, trained and equipped for internal security. Training was given in foot and arms drill, ceremonial drill, field craft, tactical exercises and range practices. Annual camps continued to be held.

Expenditure on the Defence Force over the last four years was as follows:

	$
1961	7,056
1962	7,456
1963	6,283
1964	6,326

Digitized by Google

PART III

Chapter 1: Geography

MONTSERRAT lies in 16° 45′ north latitude and 60° 15′ west longitude, 27 miles south-west of Antigua and some 40 miles north-west of Guadeloupe. It resembles a leg of ham in shape and has a maximum length of 11 miles and a maximum breadth of seven. Its area is 39 square miles. The island is of volcanic origin and has three main mountain ridges—Silver Hill in the North (1,287 ft.), Central Hill in the middle of the island (2,499 ft.), and Soufriere Hills in the South (3,002 ft.).

The climate of the island is tropical and healthy, the mean maximum temperature being 86° F. The annual average rainfall is about 60 inches. The central part of the west coast receives more rain than the east coast. The north and south are dry. The incidence of rain is extremely variable, but the rainiest months are usually from September to November and the dry season usually from March to June. Montserrat is windswept for the greater part of the year.

Chapter 2: History

THE island was discovered by Columbus on his second voyage to the New World in 1493. It was colonised in 1632 when a number of Irishmen who formed a part of Thomas Warner's company came across from the neighbouring island of St. Christopher (St. Kitts) and made their homes there. It was captured by the French in 1664, restored to England in 1668, capitulated to the French again in 1782 and was finally ceded to Britain in 1783.

Chapter 3: Administration

AT the end of 1964, the Montserrat Legislative Council comprised the Administrator as President, two official members, seven elected members and one nominated member. There is adult suffrage under the provisions of the Constitution and Elections Ordinance, 1952.

Digitized by Google

The Executive Council consisted of the Administrator, who is President, two official members, the Chief Minister and two other Ministers and one member without portfolio.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

THE inspection of weights and measures was duly carried out as required under section 13(1) of the Weights and Measures Act (Cap. 154). During 1963 and 1964, 113 and 139 weights and measures were tested by an authorised police officer. The standard measures recognised in the colony are as follows:

(*a*) Standard of length: the imperial yard.

(*b*) Standard of weight: the imperial pound.

(*c*) Standard of capacity: the imperial gallon.

Chapter 5: Reading List

GENERAL

ASPINALL, Sir A. *Pocket Guide to the West Indies.* Methuen, 1954.

BARCLAYS BANK D.C.O. *Leeward Islands: an economic survey.* 1962.

LAWRENCE, George E. *Thomas O'Garra: a West Indian local preacher.* Epworth Press, 1956.

O'LOUGHLIN, C. "The Economy of Montserrat; a national accounts study", *Social and Economic Studies,* Vol. 8, No. 2, 1959.

STARKEY, O. P. *Commercial Geography of Montserrat.* Bloomington, Indiana University, 1960.

The West Indies and Caribbean Year Book. Thomas Skinner.

WATKINS, F. H. *Handbook of the Leeward Islands.* West India Committee, 1924.

Digitized by Google

DESCRIPTIVE

ASPINALL, Sir A. *A Wayfarer in the West Indies.* West India Committee, 1928.

FROUDE, J. A. *The English in the West Indies.* Longman Green, 1888.

BURNS, Sir ALAN. *History of the British West Indies.* Allen and Unwin, 1954.

EDWARDS, BRYAN. *History of British Colonies in the West Indies.* John Stockdale, 1793.

PARRY, J. H. and SHERLOCK, P. M. *A short history of the West Indies.* 2nd ed., Macmillan, 1963.

SOUTHEY, Captain THOMAS. *Chronological history of the West Indies.* Longman, Rees, Orme Brown and Green, 1827.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

Obtainable, if in print, from Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Report of the Leeward and Windward Islands Constitutional Conference, London, June 1959. Cmnd. 804, 1959.

Report of the East Caribbean Federation Conference, 1962. Cmnd. 1746, 1962.

Federation of East Caribbean Territories: report of the Fiscal Commissioner. Cmnd. 1991, 1963.

Federation of East Caribbean Territories: report of the Civil Service Commission. Cmnd. 1992, 1963.

Obtainable from the Government Printer, Antigua.

Antigua, Montserrat and Virgin Islands Gazette. Antigua Government Printing Office, Weekly.

Digitized by Google

APPENDIX

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Administrator, Mr. D. A. Wiles, O.B.E., President; Mr. D. R. Gibbs, C.M.G., D.S.O. (from 30th September 1964).

Mr. H. A. Besson, Crown Attorney.

Mr. P. R. Ells, Financial Secretary.

Mr. W. H. Bramble, Chief Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister for Trade and Production.

Mr. B. W. Edwards, Minister for Social Services.

Mr. D. C. Fenton, Minister for Communications and Works.

Mr. J. W. Allen, Member without Portfolio.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The Administrator, Mr. D. A. Wiles, O.B.E., President; Mr. D. R. Gibbs, C.M.G., D.S.O. (from 30th September 1964).

Mr. H. A. Besson, Crown Attorney.

Mr. P. R. Ells, Financial Secretary.

Mr. W. H. Bramble, Chief Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister for Trade and Production.

Mr. B. W. Edwards, Minister for Social Services.

Mr. D. C. Fenton, Minister for Communications and Works.

Mr. J. W. Allen, Member without Portfolio.

Mr. M. E. Walkinshaw, Elected Member for the Central District.

Miss M. R. Kelsick, Member for the Plymouth District.

Mr. M. Dyer, Member for the Southern District.

Mr. M. S. Osborne, O.B.E., Nominated Member.

Printed in England for Her Majesty's Stationery Office
by Wm. Pollard & Co. Ltd., Exeter
Dd. 126886. K11 8/66.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Other Publications in the Series

ANNUAL REPORTS

BASUTOLAND
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE
BR. GUIANA
BR. SOLOMON IS.
BRUNEI
FIJI
GIBRALTAR
HONG KONG
MAURITIUS
SWAZILAND

BIENNIAL REPORTS

ANTIGUA
BAHAMAS
BARBADOS
BERMUDA
BR. HONDURAS
BR. VIRGIN IS.
CAYMAN IS.
DOMINICA
FALKLAND IS.
GAMBIA
GILBERT AND ELLICE IS.
GRENADA
MONTSERRAT
NEW HEBRIDES
ST. KITTS-NEVIS -ANGUILLA
ST. HELENA
ST. LUCIA
ST. VINCENT
SEYCHELLES
TONGA
TURKS AND CAICOS IS.

A standing order for selected Reports or for the complete series will be accepted by any one of the Bookshops of Her Majesty's Stationery Office at the addresses overleaf. A deposit of £3 (three pounds) should accompany standing orders for the complete series.

Orders may also be placed through any bookseller

Digitized by Google

© *Crown copyright 1966*

Published for the Commonwealth Office by
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased from
49 High Holborn, London W.C.1
423 Oxford Street, London W.1
13A Castle Street, Edinburgh 2
109 St. Mary Street, Cardiff
Brazennose Street, Manchester 2
50 Fairfax Street, Bristol 1
35 Smallbrook, Ringway, Birmingham 5
80 Chichester Street, Belfast 1
or through any bookseller

S.O. Code No. 58-1-23-64

Digitized by Google

[redacted]
G972.97 M769R 1955-56 1957-
LAC

THE
NETTIE LEE BENSON
LATIN AMERICAN COLLECTIO
of
The General Libraries
University of Texas
at Austin

Digitized by Google

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN - UNIV LIBS

3022960963

0 5917 3022960963

Digitized by Google